DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE AND ITS KINDRED ARTS AND SCIENCES.

VOL. VII. BOSTON, MAY, 1855. NO. 5.

JOEL NOURSE, PROPRIETOR, OFFICE....QUINCY HALL. SIMON BROWN, EDITOR. FRED'K HOLBROOK, } ASSOCIATE HENRY F. FRENCH, } EDITORS.

## CALENDAR FOR MAY.

"The blossomed Orchard and the Vine
Have too their charms for me;
The sweet Briar, and the Eglantine,
Again I joy to see.
These are the beauties of the Spring;
And while it doth remain,
Let all the graces dance and sing,
Till Winter come again."

MAY—of all the months in the year—is oftenest spoken of with enthusiasm, sometimes with passionate joy. It has a revivifying influence upon all nature, animate and inanimate; on the trees whose forms have long appeared lifeless, the sap starts, buds and blossoms expand, and flowers spread their delicate petals to the softly-kissing winds of the south; the earth is rapidly verdure-covered, animals gambol, birds sing and insects hum about, intent on the purposes of their busy little life. There is reanimation in all things; the air is soft and grateful, the springing grass looks cheerful and the brooks appear glad as they skip along. Man and the lower world are sympathetic,—a grand symphony of harmonious feeling pervades all things.

Is it a wonder, then, that MAY is extolled? The *sick* praise it because its breath is soft and bears upon it the perfume of the Heart's-ease, Crown-imperial, Lily of the Valley and Apple-blossoms; the *lovers* eulogize it because every thing is so gladsome about them and in unison with themselves! The *Farmer* utters his daily heart-felt panegyric for southern breezes, genial suns and fructifying rains; for springing corn, and grass and grain. Then

Hail, bounteous *May!* that dost inspire
Mirth and youth and warm desire;
Woods and groves are of thy dressing;
Hill and dale doth boast thy blessing.

So said Master Shakspeare, and he understood the secret workings of the human heart pretty well.

But there is another aspect for MAY. It is not scorching summer, but stands between that and blustering winter, hangs out vernal suns, and lets us and the trees and grass and flowers, gradually down into the roasting season, acclimated and prepared for it. "Were a summer temperature immediately to succeed the cold of winter, many of our plants would be greatly injured, if not totally destroyed. Their delicate vessels and cells would burst by a too sudden expansion, and the bud, prematurely thrust forth into the light and heat of day, would wither and fall off, or remain an abortive excrescence on its parent stem. We should also be deprived of the beauty and interest attached to the gradual development of leaf and flower, were the great annual transition in the vegetable world effected instantaneously." Now, under the beautiful arrangement which exists, as the season advances, the temperature increases, and plant after plant, according to the sensibility of its buds, sends forth its tender shoots and leaves, in beautiful succession, till every field and garden and grove is teeming with beauty and perfume.

May, on the farm, is crowded with important duties, and unless they are thoroughly discharged, will show a neglect through all the summer operations. "Drive your business, and not let your business drive you," is a good old adage, and has more force than many are disposed to allow it. Always to be able to hoe a crop, for instance, at the moment it needs it, is a matter of considerable importance, saves labor and time, and undoubtedly increases the crop beyond what it would have been had the weeds luxuriated a few days longer. This is especially the case in harvesting the grain and grass crops—a delay of a day or two sometimes sadly affecting the quality of either. It is just as important for the farmer to be prompt and improve the favorable moment in his affairs, as it is for the smith to "strike while the iron is hot," the mariner to spread his sails to the favorable breeze, or the

merchant to purchase when goods are low. When plans are judiciously laid, so that each particular duty may be performed at the proper time, the work of the farm will go on pleasantly and profitably, and afford a satisfaction unknown to those who labor without system, and seldom employ the head in conducting their affairs.

Trees.—If it was not done in April, make an experiment with one old apple tree; graft, if it needs it; dig, manure and pulverize the soil about it; if mossy and bark-bound, scrape it, and wash it with soap and water; do this twice the coming summer, and once each succeeding spring until the grafts come into bearing, keeping an account of expenses. This will test the matter, whether it is best to work over old trees. Wash your trees with soap-suds if not already done this spring.

Grafting.—It is better done in April or early in May before hot suns prevail. Where what are called suckers come after the tree is grafted, do not cut them off until October—then cut off about half their length and allow them to grow the next year. Instead of diminishing, they will increase the growth of the young grafts, as their leaves will elaborate the sap and keep up a healthly action of the tree.

Planting Corn.—Plow deep, spread the manure liberally and cultivate it in three or four inches deep, pulverize thoroughly, and then if you desire to try specific manure, add a little superphosphate, bone dust, or guano to the hill, always remembering that the guano must not come in contact with the young germs of the corn. This will give it an early start, and get the ground covered and the plants ready for the hot suns of July.

Plowing.—All crops—even the grass crops—depend greatly upon the manner in which this work has been done. Deep plowing is an antidote against drought. A light porous soil admits the air—the air is loaded with moisture, penetrates the light soil until it gets down where it is cool, and there the moisture is condensed, taken up by the light particles of earth, and held in reserve for the roots of the plants. So if you plow deep and pulverize well, there is a perpetual watering going on, be the surface ever so dry.

Garden Vegetables.—Put in seeds for garden vegetables early, and in a favorable spot. They will cover the table with palatable and wholesome edibles before the summer is over.

Garden Fruits.—Add a few choice currants, raspberries, &c.

Early Corn.—Sprout it on a sod, transplant sod and all, and you gain a week or two.

---

☞ The people of Hoboken, opposite New York, have decided in favor of being incorporated as a city.

## MIDDLESEX COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PREMIUMS.

Show at Concord, Sept. 26, 1855.

### STOCK.—CLASS 1.—BULLS.

| | |
|---|---|
| For the best native or mixed Bull | $10,00 |
| the second best | 8,00 |
| the third best | 6,00 |
| the fourth best | 5,00 |
| the best Ayrshire Bull | 8,00 |
| the second best | 5,00 |
| the best Devon Bull | 8,00 |
| the second best | 5,00 |
| the best Alderney Bull | 8,00 |
| the second best | 5,00 |
| the best Durham Bull | 8,00 |
| the second best | 5,00 |
| the best Bull Calf of any breed under one year old | 6,00 |
| the second best | 5,00 |

### CLASS 2.—WORKING OXEN.

| | |
|---|---|
| For the best yoke of Working Oxen | $10,00 |
| the second best | 8,00 |
| the third best | 7,00 |
| the fourth best | 5,00 |

### CLASS 3.—STEERS.

| | |
|---|---|
| For the best three year old Steers, | $7,00 |
| the second best | 5,00 |
| the best two year old Steers | 5,00 |

### CLASS 4.—MILCH COWS.

| | |
|---|---|
| For the best Milch Cow, native breed | $10,00 |
| the second best | 8,00 |
| the third best | 5,00 |
| the best Ayrshire Cow | 8,00 |
| the second best | 5,00 |
| the best Devon Cow | 8,00 |
| the second best | 5,00 |
| the best Alderney Cow | 10,00 |
| the second best | 5,00 |
| the best Durham Cow | 8,00 |
| the second best | 5,00 |

### CLASS 5.—HEIFERS.

| | |
|---|---|
| For the best Milch Heifer, under three years old | $7,00 |
| the second best | 6,00 |
| the third best | 5,00 |
| the best two year old Heifer | 7,00 |
| the second best | 6,00 |
| the third best | 5,00 |
| the best yearling Heifer | 5,00 |
| the best Heifer Calf | 5,00 |

### CLASS 6.—FAT CATTLE.

| | |
|---|---|
| For the best yoke of Fat Oxen | 10,00 |
| the second best | 8,00 |
| the third best | 6,00 |
| the fourth best | 5,00 |
| the best fat Cow | 6,00 |

### CLASS 7.—SWINE.

| | |
|---|---|
| For the best Boar | $6,00 |
| the second best | 5,00 |
| the best breeding Sow | 6,00 |
| the second best | 5,00 |
| the best Pigs, not less than three in number, from four to eight months old | 5,00 |
| the best porker, of any age | 5,00 |
| the second best | 2,00 |

### CLASS 8.—HORSES.

| | |
|---|---|
| For the best Stud Horse | $10,00 |
| the second best | 5,00 |
| the best breeding Mare | 8,00 |
| the second best | 5,00 |
| the best five year old Colt, broken to harness | 5,00 |
| the best four year old Colt, broken to harness | 5,00 |
| the best three year old Colt, broken to harness | 5,00 |
| the best two year old Colt | 5,00 |
| the best yearling Colt | 5,00 |

### CLASS 9.—POULTRY.

| | |
|---|---|
| For the best live Turkeys, not less than 5 in number | $3,00 |
| the second best | 2,00 |
| the best live Geese, not less than 5 in number | 3,00 |
| the second best | 2,00 |
| the best live barn-yard Fowls, not less than 5 in number | 5,00 |
| the best show of any Fowls | 3,00 |
| the second best | 2,00 |

---

☞ Mildew stains are very difficult to remove from linen. The most effectual way is to rub soap on the spots, then chalk, and bleach the garment in the hot sun.

*For the New England Farmer.*

## CHOICE AND CULTURE OF APPLE TREES.

Messrs. Editors:—As the season is fast approaching when most people purchase their trees for transplanting, I venture to make a few statements relative to my theories and practice in the above line.

Much credit is due to many enterprising individuals, who have subjected themselves to great labor and expense in order to furnish the public with a supply of good trees; and, whilst this just meed of praise is cheerfully bestowed where it is deserved, no false delicacy will make me forbear to give vent to my feelings of contempt and indignation towards those nursery-men who—not only in defiance of all law, both of God and man, but in direct opposition to their own pecuniary interests—have practised the grossest impositions on the ignorant and unwary. Justice, however, demands it should be concluded that, in many instances, where the fault has been charged to the nursery-man, it really belongs to the one who had the charge of setting out and subsequent care of the trees.

Much as I admire a good nursery, with its clean and well-cultivated rows, candor and truth compels me to say that it is not the proper place to look for the best trees. First, because they generally stand much too thick; second, because their trunks have been entirely sheltered from the sun, to which they must be inevitably, and, in too many instances, fatally exposed; third, because the soil in which they are thus far reared, is often richer than that to which they are transplanted can possibly be made. If it were possible so to do by statute law, I would not lessen the number of nurseries, but would rather increase them. But if the process of depletion was to be applied in accordance with my views, it would be in the number of trees contained in a row, which should be not more than fifty per cent. of the number usually allowed to stand. This statement is not intended to lessen the profits of those engaged in this branch of business, but rather to enhance them, as it an opinion, founded on observation and experience, that one dollar is not a high price for a good sized, thrifty apple tree.

But how shall I be able to select a good tree, and how shall I test the correctness of your diatribe against thick-set nurseries? says the inquirer of little experience in this matter.

In regard to the selection of a good tree, let the trunk be of as pyramidial form as possible, the bark smooth and of a dark green color, the top being well spread and divided into not less than three branches. Examine the twigs of the last year's growth, to see if they are not only of proper length, but of good circumference, with a good full bud at the top, and, all other things being right, it is of but little consequence whether the body is straight or crooked, although my preferences are in favor of the crooked.

As to the propriety of purchasing a tree from a thick-set nursery, common sense teaches that it is impossible for it to have a quantum sufficit of roots, and those must possess but a feeble nature, and who will answer for its trunk surviving the heat of such a sun as that of 1854? It would be the height of folly to hope for such a result, for, if the tree should not literally die, yet the sap vessels would be so hardened and cramped by the heat, as to render it impossible for the sap to flow in sufficient quantities to give the top its needed support; consequently, the limbs become stinted, and fail of having that healthy appearance which so easily distinguishes a well cultivated tree.

The sap which is thus obstructed, like a water-course must find outlet somewhere, which it accomplishes by sending out numerous shoots at the bottom of the tree, sometimes from below the surface of the ground, which with me, in many instances, it is impossible to kill by frequent cutting, as the more I perform this operation, the more is their name legion. To more fully substantiate the correctness of this theory, let us follow nature in her training of the "wild apple tree of the wood."

First, the seed of the apple germinates and shows itself two or three feet above the ground before the cattle think it worthy of their attention to browse, when, for a number of years, a kind of running contest is kept up between them as to who shall obtain the mastery, which generally results in the tree, shrub-like, increasing in width to such a degree that it is impossible for its foe to reach the shoot, which is now ascending from the centre, and which soon forms a respectable top. The owner, making the discovery that it will grow in spite of beast's browsing and man's neglect, in the course of a few years cuts away the now useless shrubs and sprouts on and around its body, and finds that he has a tree as hardy as the most sturdy oak, with which a tree from a crowded nursery bear about as favorable comparison to as would a Milk street clerk with a down-east lumber-man.

A tree whose body can always be protected from the rays of the sun, will invariably be much more thrifty and prolific than one otherwise exposed. I would recommend to those who are about setting out trees, to let them incline to the southwest about two degrees, from a perpendicular position, as a protection to their bodies from the direct rays of the sun. In ten years the difference in perpendicular appearance will not be perceptible.

Should any suckers come out on the bodies of trees newly transplanted, cherish them with all possible care, as where two or more are allowed to grow up and down the trunk, I have never known it to perish by sun-blight. The second spring these may be headed in one-half, and the third entirely removed. Excepting this for the first four or five years, if you are tempted to use your jack-knife about them, throw it into the river immediately, that you may be delivered from evil.

Pro Bono Publico.

*N. Bridgewater, Feb.* 3, 1855.

---

Preserving Flour and Meal.—The patented plan of Thomas Pearsall, of Hooper's Valley, N. Y., for preserving flour, meal and grain, from heating and souring, by having an open pipe running through the centre of a barrel of flour and meal, or a number of such tubes in bins of grain, we have tested and found to be an excellent invention. A barrel of Indian corn meal put up in May last, with one of his refrigerating tubes, is now as sweet as it was on the day it was packed.

This improvement must lead to a great saving to our country, as it is calculated that no less than $5,000,000 is lost annually by the souring of flour and the heating of grain in piles,—much, if not all, of which may be saved by the application of this invention, which is neither complex nor expensive, but simple and cheap. A barrel of corn meal, packed in one of Pearsall's patent tubular barrels, arrived in this city on the 7th of this month from Louisville. It was put up in July, and shipped to New Orleans, was kept several weeks in the hold of a steamboat, and afterwards housed in a warehouse until about the 1st of December, and yet is now perfectly sweet.

*Scientific American.*

---

*For the New England Farmer.*

## THOUGHTS ON CLIMATE.

BY HENRY F. FRENCH.

It is strange to think how much we pay for the privilege of living in a cold climate. The hay crop of New England, in 1850, was about three-and-a-half millions of tons, and was worth, when stored for use, about thirty-five millions of dollars. All this, with a trifling deduction for what was exported, was fed out to our cattle, sheep and horses, to sustain them during the winter months. In the Southern part of our country, no such crop is raised, for it is not needed. Vast droves of cattle find abundant food, summer and winter, in the woods and on the prairies, with no care from man. Thus we pay in New England, for the privilege of keeping our very cattle in a cold climate, thirty-five millions of dollars. And this is by no means all. We feed out to them a vast amount of grain. We build for them expensive barns and stables, a luxury which Southern animals neither enjoy, nor have occasion for. They are far more comfortable out of doors, under a warm sky.

We expend a great amount of labor and time in feeding out three-and-a-half million tons of hay, a fork-full at a time, each winter.

Again, there were in New England, by the census of 1850, a few more than a half-million of families, occupying nearly half-a-million of dwellings. I think it would be a fair estimate, that the annual average cost of keeping up every dwelling to the necessary point of comfort in New England, above the cost in the Southern States, on account of cold merely, is thirty dollars, or in all fifteen millions of dollars. To this, add for the extra fuel the like amount of fifteen millions, and we have already, for merely hay for our cattle, and additional shelter and warmth for our families, a tax of sixty-five million of dollars a year, for the luxury of cold weather.

But again, they say the dog-day costume of a dandy in New Orleans is, a clean dickey and a pair of spurs! We must not forget the matter of clothing. What additional clothing is really necessary in New England beyond what a Southern clime requires? We will call it the very small amount of thirty dollars for each family of about five persons, and this gives us fifteen millions more, making eighty millions a year in all. Now when we consider all this, and the disadvantages under which farmers labor, at the North, as to performing their labor—how we are hurried and driven to do our fencing, plowing and planting in a very few days, while no farther South than Maryland the plow runs every month in the year—it is enough to make us pause and consider, whether, indeed, our lines have fallen in pleasant places, and whether we have a goodly heritage.

It is true, we do pay, in New England, a tax, an annual tax, equal to one hundred millions of dollars, for the additional food, shelter and fuel necessary for subsistence in a cold climate. How much additional labor we annually perform to bring out from a hard and sterile soil our various crops, beyond what they would require to be raised by the same skill and thrift, from the deep and fertile valleys of the South and West, no man would dare to estimate, and the wonder, only, to a Southern man who visits New England, is, that we undertake to cultivate such land at all.

A hundred millions of dollars a year is a large sum to pay for *sunshine* merely—for what, in other words, in another climate, the warmth of the sun would render unnecessary.

But, there is a law of compensation running through all nature. If we travel towards the South, in our own country, as we leave New England, we see as we go farther, less and less of the indications of comfort and refinement. The house is less and less like *a Home*. As the climate allows the members of the family more freedom abroad, less is thought of the internal convenience and of the outward adornment of the dwelling. Living apart, and not in villages, there are less advantages for education and social intercourse.

Even in Old Virginia, in 1850, there were by the census, seventy-seven thousand free white native adults that could not read or write! No wonder one of her politicians recently expressed great surprise at a recent proposition in the Massachusetts Legislature, to limit the right of voting to citizens who can read and write!

The lavish expenditure of human labor strikes every New England man who travels Southward. That human toil is to be saved, seems never to have been thought of. Where the man himself must do the work, the head will do its part, and save the hands; but where the head of one directs the hands of others, the labor is never skilfully applied.

Slavery accounts for many of the facts to which

we refer. Slave labor produces less than any other, and where the slave exists the master never works, while in New England every man labors with his own hands, and is proud to do so.

Yet, back of these considerations, as all history shows us, there is a law of compensation as to climate which seems universal. A cold climate is most favorable to the development of an active and energetic character. This is, after all, the grand secret of the whole matter. The New England youth sees before him a rugged country, of forest-covered hills, cut through by rushing streams, with the winter snows drifting deep about them. But he feels the power within him to fell the forest, to dam the river, to break the snow-paths—to build mills, to grade the hills and valleys for railways. Everything gives way before an energy and a will of which he, whose cheek is fanned by a Southern breeze in his youth, knows nothing.

Often the Northern man, trained to active life at home, finds himself, by a short residence at the South, enervated and weakened by the climate, and ceases to wonder at the different habits of the people.

We may speculate and theorize as we will, it is true at this very hour, that the sun in his whole course around the earth does not now search out a people of the same number occupying a like amount of territory, so well supplied with the necessaries of life, so well educated, so moral, so free and so happy, as those of New England.

What we might be with a warm and genial climate and a mellow soil we cannot tell. What we are, with the rough north winds, and our rocky hills, and a free sky bending over us, let us consider well and be thankful.

---

*For the New England Farmer.*

## POTATOES.

The crop of potatoes in Massachusetts, and probably in New England generally, was uncommonly fine last year, and altogether the most profitable crop raised. Of the Black Chenangoes, which I have raised for more than ten years past, without any rot in a single case, I last year obtained 320 bushels to the acre. They are now worth at my door 65 cts. per bushel—320 × 65 =$208,30. This on land just broken up, and with a moderate quantity of stable manure, say 25 cart-loads to an acre, plowed in, gives a nett profit greater by far than any I know of in ordinary agriculture.

Of the Jenny Lind potatoes, of which kind I planted only 8 square rods, I raised 24 bushels, or at the rate of 480 bushels to the acre—worth now 62½ cts. per bushel, equal to $300 to the acre.

This last is a huge, coarse potato, but well worth raising, owing to its wonderful productiveness; they are used for table purposes by many, being generally a little cheaper than other kinds, and pretty good eating late in the season. The Black Chenangoes seem to improve every succeeding year, and are now in this neighborhood esteemed one of the best kinds for cooking, and owing to the fact that they never suffer from rot, are more cultivated, I think, than any other kind.

AMASA WALKER.

*North Brookfield, March*, 1855.

---

## SOULS, NOT STATIONS.

Who shall judge a man from manners?
Who shall know him by his dress?
Paupers may be fit for princes,
Princes fit for something less.
Crumpled shirt and dirty jacket
May beclothe the golden ore
Of the deepest thoughts and feelings—
Satin vests could do no more.
There are springs of crystal nectar
Ever welling out of stone;
There are purple buds and golden
Hidden, crushed, and overgrown.
God, who counts by souls, not dresses,
Loves and prospers you and me,
While he values thrones, the highest,
But as pebbles in the sea.

Man, upraised above his fellows—
Oft forgets his fellows then;
Masters—rulers—lords remember
That your meanest kinds are men!
Men by labor, men by feeling,
Men by thought and men by fame,
Claiming equal rights to sunshine
In a man's ennobling name.
There are foam-embroidered oceans,
There are little weed-clad rills,
There are feeble inch-high saplings,
There are cedars on the hill;
But God, who counts by souls, not stations,
Loves and prospers you and me;
For to Him all vain distinctions
Are as pebbles in the sea.

Toiling hands alone are builders
Of a nation's wealth and fame;
Titled laziness is pensioned,
Fed and fattened on the same,
By the sweat of others' foreheads,
Living only to rejoice,
While the poor man's outraged freedom
Vainly lifteth up its voice.
But truth and justice are eternal,
Born with loveliness and light;
And sunset's wrongs should never prosper
While there is a sunny right;
And God, whose world-heard voice is singing
Boundless love to you and me,
Will sink oppression with its titles,
As the pebbles in the sea.

---

SHEEP.—Lawrence Smith, of Middlefield, has been testing the respective merits of the Merino and Oxfordshire sheep, and finds that the latter are at the same time the most productive and the least expensive; they are also very prolific, usually giving birth to twins, and Mr. Smith has discovered that while the receipts on ten Merinos amounted to $32, the profits on nine Oxfordshires was $60,90. He also states that the lamb of the latter species often attain the weight of 100 lbs. on nothing but the milk afforded by the dam, and says that he has had a seven-month

lamb in his flock weighing 104 lbs.—*Springfield Republican.*

*For the New England Farmer.*

## LEGAL PROTECTION TO FRUIT TREES.

"How does it happen that there is so little choice fruit cultivated in this place!" I asked of a resident, last fall. "There are," I continued, "no early or fall apples, no pears, good or bad, very few peaches, no grapes; in fact, though possessing every advantage for the successful cultivation of the very choicest fruits, there is in the place scarcely a thing grown worthy the name of fruit!"

"Well, I can tell you the whole and only cause, and it is all told in one single word, '*Boys!*' Boys, big and little, will manage in spite of you to get the best of your fruit, and most likely break down and destroy your fruit trees; and it is more vexatious and provoking to raise the fruit and have such scamps get it and ruin your trees to boot, than it is to have nothing. I tried it till I got sick of it, and gave it up!"

The manner in which this response was uttered, showed it was no "fancy sketch," but "real life." The man felt what he said.

"But," I replied, "put the law on such fellows!"

"Law!" he repeated, with a scornful leer. "I tried *law* once, to my satisfaction. I found one of the vermin on one of my trees one night, and made a complaint against him before a justice of the peace, who found him guilty, and fined him one dollar and costs! From that time my garden and fruit trees found no peace till the first was ruined and the latter broken down and killed. That's the beauty of the law. If the fellow got into my house, at the same time, and stolen a crab, or had passed a counterfeit one dollar bill on me designedly, he would have fetched up at the States prison! But he could trample down my garden, and break down my fruit trees which were worth beyond price to me, and yet the *law* would fine him only a few dollars, and let him off to run riot in his mischief!"

Well, thinks I to myself, must these things be so? Must we be deprived of the inestimable blessing of having abundance of choice fruit, a blessing great as it is which every man in the commonwealth with only a half-acre lot may enjoy, because, forsooth, vagrant boys, grown and ungrown, will steal it? Nothing conduces more to the enjoyment of the family than abundance of good fruit, and no good can be had with less expense.

If every family which has the means, could have the most tempting fruits of the varieties which flourish here, how greatly would family expenses be reduced! Tens of thousands of dollars that are now sent abroad for supplies and for foreign fruits would be saved at home and added to the *wealth* of the common*wealth*.

It is not the straggling, moss-grown tree that stands on the open common or by the road-side tempting every passer by to "pluck and eat," that needs or merits protection. If a man has no more wit than to expose his treasures openly to the public, thus daring them to violate the law, let him suffer loss under the mild pressure of the present law. But as he who breaks into a house and takes property either day or night is made to feel the rigor of the law, and that justly, so let him who will break into or enter a garden, yard or orchard, and take fruit day or night, be made to feel a like deserved rigor.

Will not our Legislature now in session think of these things? Let them give us a chance to try what virtue there is in something beside turf and grass. Give us something that will bring the "boys" down from the apple-tree and pear-tree too in double quick time, and make them stay down!

ICHABOD HOE.

## THE GREATEST GRAIN MARKET IN THE WORLD.

In the progress of our city and of the West generally, facts of the most astounding character not unfrequently come upon us unawares, and before we are prepared for them. If any one had asked us, two days ago, which of the great grain depots of the world, (depots at which grain is collected directly from the producer,) was the largest, we probably would have named half a dozen before hitting the right one. If the same question were put to each of our readers, we doubt if any one of the whole number could answer it correctly, nor do we believe that any one of the whole number would credit the correct answer to the query, unless it was sustained by an array of figures, the truth of which could not be questioned. Our attention was called to this subject yesterday, by a gentleman engaged in the grain business in this city, and with his assistance, we have given it a thorough investigation, *the result of which, greatly to our surprise and gratification, establishes the supremacy of* CHICAGO *as a grain port over all other ports of the world!* That there may be no ground for incredulity, we proceed to lay before our readers the statistics, gleaned from authentic sources, which confirm this statement. In the table which follows, we have in all cases reduced flour to its equivalent in wheat, estimating five bushels of the latter to one of the former. The exports from the European ports are an average for a series of years—those of St. Louis for the year 1853, those for Chicago and Milwaukie, for the current year, and those for New York are for the past eleven months of the same year. With these explanations we invite attention to the following table:

| | Wheat. bush. | Ind. Corn. bush. | Oats, Rye, Barley. | Total. bush. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Odessa | 5,600,000 | .. | 1,440,000 | 7,040,000 |
| Galatz & Ibrelia | 2,400,000 | 5,600,000 | 320,000 | 8,320,000 |
| Dantzig | 3,080,000 | .. | 1,328,000 | 4,408,000 |
| St. Petersburg | .. | all kinds | .. | 7,200,000 |
| Archangel | .. | .. | .. | 2,528,000 |
| Riga | .. | .. | .. | 4,000,000 |
| St. Louis | 3,082,000 | 918,384 | 1,081,078 | 5,081,468 |
| Milwaukie | 2,723,574 | 181,937 | 841,650 | 8,747,161 |
| New York | 5,802,452 | 3,627,888 | .. | 9,420,335 |
| Chicago | 2,946,922 | 6,745,588 | 5,034,216 | 13,726,728 |

By comparing the exports of the different places mentioned in the above table, it will be seen that the grain exports of Chicago exceed those of New York by 4,296,393 bushels, those of St. Louis by more than two hundred and fifty per cent., and those of Milwaukie nearly four hundred per cent. Turning to the great granaries of Europe, Chicago nearly doubles St. Petersburg, the largest, and exceeds Galatz and Ibrelia combined 5,406,727 bushels.

Twenty years ago Chicago, as well as most of the country from whence she now draws her immense supplies of breadstuffs, imported both flour and meat for home consumption—*now she is the largest primary grain depot in the world, and she leads all other ports of the world, also, in the quantity and quality of her beef exports!!* We say the largest *primary* grain depot in the world, because it cannot be denied that New York, Liverpool, and some other great commercial centres, receive more breadstuffs than Chicago does in the course of a year, but none of them will compare with her, as we have shown above, in the amount collected from the hands of the producers.

What a practical illustration the above facts afford as to the wonderful, the scarcely credible, progress of the West—what an index it furnishes to the fertility of her soil, and to the industrious and enterprising character of our people—what a prophecy of the destiny that awaits her, when every foot of her long stretches of prairie and her rich vallies shall be reduced to a thoroughly scientific tillage! How long, at this rate, will it be before the centre of population and of wealth will have arrived at the meridian line of our city, and Chicago will have vindicated her right to be recognized as the great commercial metropolis of the United States? We verily believe such is the destiny that awaits her.—*Free Press.*

---

*For the New England Farmer.*

## ABOUT RAISING STRAWBERRIES.

I find that my neighbors who cultivate strawberries in a very rich piece of garden ground, are so overwhelmed with weeds that they feel compelled to make a new bed every year or two. I have had a bed in the same spot, a part of it for six and a part for five years, and for the past three years have had comparatively very little trouble with the weeds; the hoe and hand, three times in the season, being sufficient, including therein once late in the autumn. I take poorer land and a larger piece—a piece where nothing but grass or strawberries will grow, unless it be weeds, owing mainly to the close proximity of two large elms, whose roots draw largely on the soil, and partly to the soil being a gravelly loam, which has never received much that was enriching. Sometimes I have given the bed a dressing of well-rotted compost, sometimes of leaves in the fall, and sometimes nothing whatever. Last summer it produced 105 quarts of strawberries. The dimensions of the bed I cannot now give, but should suppose it would contain 1000 or 1200 square feet. I would not exchange it for one of half the size, in rich soil, if I had to take the weeds also.

As strawberries do not grow on bushes to accommodate tall people, and as the sun always shines its hottest rays when they ripen, and it is a busy time, I find it advantageous to have a bed sufficiently large to pay for the picking, by allowing my neighbors' children or wives to pick them on shares, giving me one-half, which half is sufficient for my family's present consumption, and for their preserve jars, and for the supply of several quarts to friends.

Yours, &c.; LEWIS S. HOPKINS.

*Northampton, Feb.* 15, 1855.

*For the New England Farmer.*

## DON'T SHOOT THE BIRDS.

MR. EDITOR:—Humanity has the first claim upon our nature. It is the first natural lesson we teach the child; it daily admonishes offending man; it asks your forbearance to do wrong. It says to the Spring birds,—come and sing your joyous songs around my dwelling. If the robin wants your cherries, mount the tree and sing and eat together; so with the beautiful cherry birds; make them your daily guests. If you have but few, plant more trees and invite familiarity. When the fruit is gone, the canker-worm and other insects are their food. Don't shoot these birds!

Build houses for the martin, the wren, the swallow, the blue bird; make the entrance holes small for the wren, and according to size for the other birds. Severe battles are fought for the mastery of the house, but the size of the hole decides who shall occupy it. The swallow and martin are sallying forth for musquitoes and other insects, while the little wren is picking over your fruit trees for bugs and slugs; early and late they regale you with their music. Have you a heart to shoot these birds!

Few know the value of the woodpecker, who constantly seeks for noxious grubs beneath the bark of your orchard trees, and so dexterously does its work. Will you shoot this bird? There is the "golden robin," that hangs her "reticule" on the limb of the graceful elm, ingeniously beyond your reach. She opens her voice with the dawn of the morning in rich notes; she lives on worms and insects; give her thrums to weave her nest. Don't shoot this beautiful bird.

There is the thrush—he perches upon the tree-top and directs you to "plow it," "furrow it," "drop it," and "cover it up," as a true monitor of seed time. Will you shoot him for this good advice? The merry boborlink, the lark that whistles, and that little Bible bird, the "sparrow," that chirps around your door, seeks a few crumbs of bread, and becomes the pet of children. Will you shoot these innocent birds?

The hawk dashes into your brood of chickens with a relish for uncooked poultry, and carries off his victim before the eyes of its terrified, beseeching mother; yet his principal food is *snakes, mice* and *lizzards*. So he is an expert *fisherman*, but there is plenty of fish in the sea for you. Don't shoot the hawk.

The crow pulls up your corn, (soak it in copperas water as a preventive,) but he is your common scavenger, removes carrion and other offal, eats worms, and is highly beneficial in his department. His music—any thing but agreeable to us—is heard by Him "who hears the young ravens when they cry." Will you shoot this raven?

It was my intention to have merely *sketched* these birds, that surround every New England home. Wanton is the hand and wicked the heart that revels in this destructive, indiscriminate sport. Legislation is *too tame* upon this subject; *law* is disregarded; and, as *conventions* are the order of the day, why not have a great *national bird convention* and decide whether, in God's providence, birds were sent to curse or to bless us. Yours, H. POOR.

*New York, March* 15, 1855.

## A MECHANIC'S GARDEN.

We have frequent inquiries for some plan of cultivating small plots of ground such as are owned by multitudes of mechanics, traders and merchants, residing in the suburbs of our cities and villages. We cannot well put down on one, or even on a hundred pages, all the minute directions these men require; we will, however, do what we can to meet their wants. We give them a list of what is one plot of ground of half an acre; and lest the statements may seem rather large we may as well say in advance, that we describe just what we saw on the grounds of Mr. J. H. Smith, at Norwalk, Conn.; and further, that although there is such a variety of trees, fruits, vegetables, &c., there is no confused crowding or jumbling, but every thing seems to be arranged in perfect order. Mr. Smith showed us a large sheet of paper, upon which he has marked out the ground occupied by each tree, plant and plot of vegetables or berries, with the name and variety written down. We should also say that Mr. S. is a laboring mechanic, and that he does nearly all the work required in his garden with his own hands, and out of the usual hours of business.

His lot is about 100 feet wide, and of course extends back some 220 feet to make an acre. The front half contains the house with front and side plots—the house being upon one side of the lot. In this front area, in part covered with grass, are quite a variety of fruit and ornamental trees, including 14 cherry trees of different varieties, 4 standard and 10 dwarf pear trees, 3 dwarf apple trees, 6 peach trees, 8 Norway spruce, 1 white pine, 2 balsam firs, 1 horse chestnut, 1 mountain ash, 4 common whitewash, (in the street outside the fence) 4 common forest dogwood, 2 elms, 5 roses of Sharon, 2 wax plants, 12 varieties of roses, beside flowering currants, sweet-scented shrubs, &c.

Back of this ground commences the garden, which is not, as it should be, separated from it by any fence. In the rear is a cold grapery, 14 by 13 feet, with a grape-border in front, 18 feet wide. The rest of the ground is planted with various fruit trees, and divided into plots containing each of the following: beets, two varieties of onions, cabbages, potatoes, sweet corn, cucumbers, peas, three varieties of beans, gherkins, summer and winter squashes, radishes, two varieties of lettuce, nasturtions, eleven varieties of strawberries, five varieties of raspberries, several vigorous hills of New-Rochelle and white blackberries, two varieties of gooseberries, and three varieties of currants. In addition to these, there are plants of hops, sage, parsley, pie plant (in abundance,) wormwood, and a variety of flowers.

On this ground are three apple trees, three plum trees, 20 peach trees, 75 dwarf pear trees of 42 varieties.

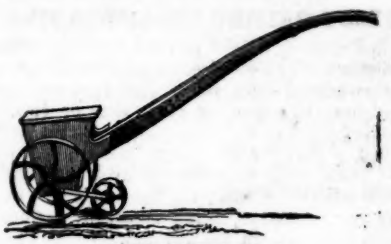
The cold grapery is new, and cost near $400. A plain one for common use may be built for one-half, or one-fourth of this expense. This one has a cistern, with a simple and inexpensive force pump, to which is attached hose and pipe for throwing water into every part. It contains 24 grape vines of 13 varieties.

The various vegetables and fruits are so selected as to furnish a succession for the table during the entire season. In addition to a bountiful supply for his own use, Mr. Smith sells strawberries, blackberries, plants, &c., enough to pay all extra labor employed, and for most of the manure he purchases.

After reading this enumeration, who will say that a single half acre, if rightly managed, is not capable of ministering greatly to one's taste and comfort, as well as profit? What Mr. Smith enjoys from his plot of ground, could not be purchased for many hundreds of dollars, if it could be purchased at all; while, as before stated, the cost is comparatively trifling. The time and labor devoted to these grounds serve as a recreation, rather then a tax upon the labors of the day.—*American Agriculturist.*

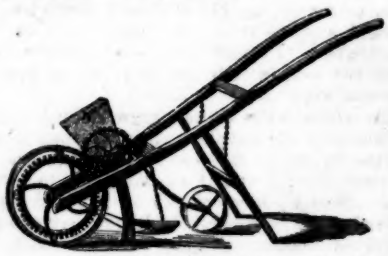
## SEED SOWERS.

Now that so many persons engage in the cultivation of the root crops, it is important that all labor-saving machinery that is valuable, should be known and brought into requisition. The first sower here represented we have not used, and suppose that it is intended merely for garden purposes, such as sowing beds. No. 2, and No. 3, we have used many times, and have found the seed to come well after them. But any sower should be carefully tested on a board or floor before going to the garden or field with it.



SEED SOWER No. 1.

This is a small hand drill, designed for the garden. It is a cheap, light, pretty sower, well adapted to the wants of those who cultivate root and vegetable crops on a limited scale, and will sow all such crops, excepting peas and beans. It opens the ground, sows the seed, covers and rolls it at one operation or passing.



SEED SOWER No. 2.

Seed Sower No. 2 is adapted to garden or field sowing, is a size larger than No. 1, and is designed for sowing the same kinds of seeds. The

SEED SOWER No. 3.

cylinder and brush within the hopper go by gearing, and thus are always sure to operate.

Seed Sower No. 3, combines several important improvements upon the English Drill, particularly in those additions which fit it for sowing large seeds. The brush and cylinder of No. 3, which distributes the seed, go by graduated rows of iron cogs or gearings, which operate simply and uniformly, are durable, not likely to get out of order, and by which the speed of the dropping may be increased or lessened, large or small seeds sown, in all their varieties, at any desirable distances, in hills or drills, and the several necessary changes for the purpose are made with ease and expedition. The brush is used for small seeds, as turnips, carrots, &c., and the cylinder for corn, peas, beans, &c. Six tins, with different sized holes through them, accompany each machine, to be used in connection with the brush, as circumstances may require.

## MORGAN HORSES.

One of the editors of the *American Agriculturist*, who attended the Vermont State Fair, makes the following candid and judicious remarks in regard to this stock of horses:

"One of our correspondents has recently characterized the Morgan horse a humbug. We wish there were more such agricultural humbugs. He has equally failed in characterising this fine family of horse flesh. He has evidently drawn his ideas from the throng of miscellaneous brutes that have been picked up by jockeys of every hue, and palmed off among the unsophisticated, wherever such customers could be found. Of course there is no such thing as a *pure* Morgan horse, as their origin dates from a single animal, and less than sixty years ago. But they have had about the same period to form a peculiar race as the Ayrshire cattle, and their success is fully equal. They are not homogeneous in form, appearance, nor character; but they are enough so to be entitled to the possession of a distinctive family name. There are wide departures from the general resemblance, in many of the progeny that are bred from uncouth dams. We have seen some over sixteen hands high and some scarcely twelve; some with steep rumps, big heads, and dull eyes, or sluggish gaits, that were *called* Morgans, and probably enough were gotten by them, but the characteristics of the dam were too potent to be subdued by a single cross. In conclusion we are compelled to say, that the *true type* of the Morgan horse is as desirable an animal for the road, whether our taste, or convenience, or pockets are concerned, as we have ever seen in harness; and success, say we, to the Vermont enterprise of rearing and maintaining a new and highly creditable family of horses."

## OUR GARDEN.

There is practical wisdom in the following article. Read and follow lead.

It is in the rear of our dwelling on State street, five rods wide by ten rods long, skirted on both sides, and each end with apple, pear, plum, quince, and cherry trees, of numerous varieties, interspersed with currant, gooseberry, black and white raspberry bushes and flowers of numerous tints and hues. It was well manured with a compost of muck and the droppings and drippings of the kitchen and barn, and plowed twelve inches deep in the fall of 1853. In the following spring, it was again plowed eight inches deep, and harrowed until not a lump was to be seen upon the surface. As soon in May as the earth was sufficiently warm, the seed was "cast in" with a patent seed sower, drilling, dropping and covering the seed as fast as one could run a wheelbarrow over a smooth surface. The work of planting, cultivating and harvesting, was principally done with a light hoe in our own hands, before breakfast and after tea. The result is as follows:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3 bushels | Top Onions, | 75 cents per bushel | $2 25 |
| 10 " | Ruta Bagas, | 25 " " | 2 50 |
| 44 " | Sugar Beets, | 25 " " | 11 00 |
| 21 " | Mangel Wort. | 20 " " | 4 20 |
| 63½ " | Carrots, | 42 " " | 39 21 |
| 6 " | Blood Beets, | 34 " " | 2 04 |
| 187 heads | Cabbage, 4 | | 7 48 |
| 22 | Acorn Winter Squashes, 20 | | 4 40 |
| 74 | Black Pumpkins, 4 | | 2 96 |
| 2 bushels | ears sweet Corn for seed, $1 00 | | 2 00 |
| 1 bushel | Pop Corn, 50 | | 50 |
| 75 | Melons, 10 | | 7 50 |
| 3 bushels | Cucumbers, $1 00 | | 3 00 |
| 2 " | Currants, | 2 00 | 4 00 |
| ½ " | Gooseberries, | 2 00 | 1 00 |
| | | | $94 04 |

With beans, pie-plant, early potatoes, peas, asparagus, &c., for the supply of one's family, to say nothing of the stalks, cabbage leaves, turnip and carrot tops, to make the cows laugh, give milk and grow fat. He that will not cultivate a good kitchen garden, "neither shall he eat" good sauce nor fine fruit.—*Watchman.*

"Out of Work."—We ask all our readers, but especially all *young men*, to read, carefully, the article in another column from "A City Mechanic."

## ELEVENTH LEGISLATIVE AGRICULTURAL MEETING.

*Reported for the New England Farmer,*
BY WILLIAM W. HILL.

The *eleventh* Legislative Agricultural Meeting was held in the Representatives' Hall, at the State House, on Tuesday evening, March 27, at 7½ o'clock. The subject for discussion was the same as at the last meeting—*Fruit and Forest Trees.*

ELIAS GROUT, Esq., of Ashland, presided. He remarked that he had been so unexpectedly called upon to preside at the meeting that he had had no opportunity for preparation, and felt that his audience was better able to instruct him than he them. He alluded to the almost wanton destruction of forest trees in New England, and hoped that a reform would be effected in this matter. In cultivating forest trees, he thought they should be allowed to grow as thick as possible, in order to secure handsome trees and good timber, and they should not be trimmed for a number of years. In the West, the woods grow up thick and prune themselves, producing fine tall trees with very few limbs. Coming to the subject of fruit trees, he remarked that it is sometimes asked why the old apple trees are wasted—why not graft them, as by so doing you can save time and trouble and get earlier fruit? The answer is, they last but a few years, and if they have grown up near stone walls, where they could not be cultivated, surrounded by bushes, and have felt the axe or the saw but rarely, the borers are found in them abundantly, and they thus become nests of these destructive insects. When, on the contrary, the trees are in an open lot, it is a good plan to take as much green manure as one horse can draw and place it around the tree, covering it with straw, and allow it to remain a year, after which plow it in. *Ley is often used with injury in washing trees*, but if green manure is mixed with it the ill effects will be prevented. Upon stone fruit trees ley may be used much stronger than upon apple trees. The speaker suggested that a wash of strong lime water, mixed with salt, would have a happy effect on the growth of trees. It is of no use to dig about trees unless a considerable space is dug over. The ground should be deeply plowed about the roots at proper distances. In regard to trimming trees, they should be kept open, giving, say, a border of two to three feet of foliage. It is the practice to allow trees too much foliage, particularly the apple. Fruit that is not sheltered by foliage will ripen quicker. (*a.*) Vigorous shoots that come out after grafting, should be cut down very close, because they will absorb too much of the nutriment of the tree. As regards manuring fruit trees, pears will bear very rich treatment, and a trench should be dug around them and filled up with rich manures. Mr. Grout also alluded to the effect of electricity on trees,—their growth, &c.—and suggested whether a tree could not be made a proper conductor. For instance, attach a wire to the roots of some tree which does not bear very well, and carry it along to the water in some spring.

Mr. BROOKS, of Princeton, followed, and remarked that trees, which he pulled up in his pastures and wherever he could find them, would grow much better when transplanted, than those he obtained from nurseries, and were much less infested by the borer. He thought this plan the most judicious in growing fruit trees,—take the natives and plant them, no matter what they are. He had some trees, which he obtained from a nursery, that did not grow any for four or five years. He recommended digging five or six feet around trees, and applying manure and muck, one-half of each, as operating exceedingly well—not only on dry, but moist, clayey lands. In regard to the cultivation of forest trees, he thought it a matter of much practical importance to farmers, for besides beautifying an estate, if planted around the farm buildings, they will break off the cold winds and make them warmer, and also protect them from decay by exposure to the weather. Mr. Brooks doubted the expediency of the suggestions of the Chairman in regard to opening the tops of trees, because the sun will be let in too much, which is a serious evil in our hot, dry climate, inasmuch as the tree will be burnt up and destroyed. He said he had had good success in following up borers with a wire when they are boring into the trees; and as to washing trees, he had used ley of such a strength, that an egg would just sink in it, and he could see no ill effects accruing from it.

Mr. DARLING said he had washed his trees with ley, (in the proportion of one pound of potash to a gallon of water) during the month of July, for three successive years, and by that means had got rid of the borers.

Mr. FISK, of Framingham, remarked that he considered it a good plan, in setting out trees, to set them a little to the south south-west, as they thus receive the rays of the sun less direct.

Mr. FLINT remarked that nothing showed the progress of agriculture for the last twenty years better than the attention which is paid to the cultivation of fruit trees, and as an interesting historical fact, remarked that the first fruit trees cultivated in this country were planted on Governor's Island, in Boston harbor, by Gov. Winthrop. Mr. Flint also enforced the necessity of great care in the process of transplanting trees.

Mr. MERRIAM, of Fitchburg, made a detailed statements in regard to an experiment which he tried

with one thousand fruit trees which he obtained from a nursery at Duxbury, close by the sea, and which he transplanted to Fitchburg and set out during the time between the 1st of May and the 3d of June. The only remarkable thing about it, he observed, was that they all lived. He also stated that by driving four or five nails into a tree infested by the borer, just below the surface of the ground, with some perhaps on parts of the tree most affected, he had completely destroyed these worms; and in his opinion, the iron would not injure the fruit in the least.

Mr. Davenport, of Mendon, said that in setting out an orchard it was best to apply manure, and dig about the roots. He would mix potash with muck and put it about the roots—the potash being dissolved, and about a pound to six or eight bushels of muck used. To preserve trees from borers, he recommended strips of common tarred paper put around the trees near the ground. Care should be taken in transplanting trees, to have roots spread in all sides. In trimming, the first limb to be cut is the top, in order to get a growth of limbs as near the ground as possible. By this means a better crop of fruit is secured, the tree is less liable to be injured by the wind, the fruit is more easily gathered, and the tree is much less exposed to the effect of a drought, because the ground beneath is sheltered from the sun and retains moisture longer.

Mr. Farnum, of Boston, made some well-chosen remarks in regard to the great beauty which ornamental shade trees add to towns and villages, and the enhanced value which estates derive from them. He urged the formation of tree associations in every town in the commonwealth, whose object it shall be to adorn the streets with shade trees. Several such societies already exist.

Mr. Buckminster, of the *Ploughman*, followed in some excellent observations in regard to applying the principles of a correct taste to the matter of setting out ornamental trees, as well as the necessity of consulting the adaptation of the tree to the soil where it is to grow. He also referred to the subject of fruit trees, and spoke at length in regard to their management, varieties, &c.

---

Remarks.—(*a.*) If the tree-grower, everywhere, will always keep in mind a single fact, it will save him from the commission of many errors. *Leaves are the lungs of the tree.* To take away the leaves from a well-balanced tree so that the fruit shall ripen earlier and better, would be like cutting away a portion of the lungs of a well-proportioned boy, so that his body might be more rapidly developed and matured. In this climate, particularly, we need an abundance of leaves. So after cutting away nearly all the small limbs in grafting a tree, nature throws out numerous suckers (as they are very improperly called,) in order to supply leaves which may prepare the sap to carry on the usual work of the tree, that is to go on with its regular habits. Scions themselves will grow better where there are some "suckers," because the natural vigor of the tree is kept up.

---

*For the New England Farmer.*

## EXPERIMENTS WITH POTATOES.

Mr. Editor:—Hoping to contribute my mite towards the stock of general information on the culture of potatoes, I send you my experience the past summer. I cultivated one patch of potatoes and assisted at two more patches.

No. 1. Had raised potatoes several successive years—was covered slightly with chip, hen and sheep manure, and refuse straw and hay unrotted, land moist, plowed clean about 20th of June, and planted without harrowing; seed, smaller than fit for table use, dropped without any hill, in rows far enough to plow between one way; and from 12 to 16 inches in rows, and covered with hoe. A man may plant one-fourth of an acre in a day in this way; seed were Sand-Lakes; yield two hundred bushels to the acre.

No. 2. Plentifully covered, say 50 loads to acre, with stable manure; buckwheat on the ground year before with manure; plowed clean, harrowed then ridged and hills made with hoe; planted about 1st of June, seed mostly Pink-eyes; small and refuse potatoes; plowed shallow and hoed once, hilled very small and steep; yield 250 bushels to acre. Land was wet, hilly land. Average weight of potatoes from 6 to 8 oz.; some of them weighed 1 lb. 3 oz.

No. 3. Half turf, half sowed to turnips year before, turfy, slightly manured, plowed clean, shallow furrow struck with plow; seed 3½ feet apart; seed very small, dropped in furrows 14 to 16 inches apart, and planted 16th of June at 1½ bushel of plaster to acre; variety of seed, Sand-Lakes; plowed between rows and hoed once in very broad flat hills; yield 130 bushels to the acre. It is my impression, if more plaster had been used a larger crop would have been secured. I submit it to every one, which way of tillage is superior? For myself, on good moist ground, with small-pointed hills and Sand-Lakes for seed, I think I can get more potatoes to the acre, than of the other kind spoken of, although for goodness, I consider Pink-eyes equal, if not superior, to any other variety I am acquainted with. H. Ball.

*Bristol, Ct., Feb.* 17, 1855.

P. S. If your correspondent "W. D. B." is not yet "posted up," I can inform him that the peanut and popped corn supper referred to was a matter of fact, occurring in New Britain at the "Humphrey House," and was a season of unusual hilarity. H. B.

---

Where Cork comes from.—Cork is nothing more or less than the bark of evergreen oak, growing principally in Spain, and other countries bordering the Mediterranean; in English gardens it is only a curiosity. When the cork-tree is about fifteen years old, the bark has attained a thickness and quality suitable for manufacturing

purposes; and after stripping, a further growth of eight years produces a second crop; and so on at intervals, for ten or twelve crops. The bark is stripped from the tree, in pieces two inches in thickness, of considerable length, and of such width as to retain the curved form of the trunk when it has been stripped. The bark pealer or cutter, makes a slit in the bark perpendicularly from the top of the trunk to the bottom; he makes another incision parallel to it, and at some distance from the former; and two shorter horizontal cuts at the top and bottom. For stripping off the piece thus isolated, he uses a kind of knife with two handles and a curved blade. Sometimes after the cuts have been made, he leaves the tree to throw off the bark by the spontaneous action of the vegetation within the trunk. The detached pieces are soaked in water, and are placed over a fire when nearly dry; they are, in fact, scorched a little on both sides, and acquire a somewhat more compact texture by this scorching. In order to get rid of the curvature, and bring them flat, they are pressed down with weights while yet hot.

## SPARE THE BIRDS!

We have received the following circular from the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, and heartily commend it to the attention of our readers. The wanton and indiscriminate slaughter of birds, at this season of the year, is becoming a serious evil, and if not speedily checked, the consequences will weigh heavily upon the farmers of the commonwealth. The laws of Massachusetts provide that a penalty of one dollar be paid for the destruction of every robin killed between the first day of March and the first day of September; and every person *shooting at or killing any birds* "upon lands not owned or occupied by himself, and without license from the owner or occupant thereof, at any time between the first day of March and the fourth of July, *shall forfeit and pay to the occupant or owner of such lands the sum of ten dollars in addition to the actual damages sustained*, to be recovered by such owner or occupant in an action of trespass." We hope the penalties of the law will be rigorously enforced, and that a stop will be put to this wholesale murder of the joyous, innocent and useful denizens of the woods. The circular alluded to is as follows:

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT,
*State House, Boston, March* 26, 1855.

DEAR SIR,—There is a custom, very prevalent in many sections of the State, of regarding the Annual Fast as a holiday, and using it for gunning and shooting. Many thousands of our most useful and beautiful birds, to none more useful than to the farmer, since they destroy innumerable insects injurious to vegetation, are thus sacrificed to the wantonness and cruelty of those who know not what they do. Many painful instances of this came to my knowledge a year ago, when robins, blue-birds, sparrows, and other varieties of birds, which occasionally visit us in the early spring, were shot down without distinction or mercy.

I need not say that apart from the pleasure and delight which these innocent creatures afford, the injury done to the farmer, and to the community at large, by their destruction, is almost incalculable. I take this occasion, therefore, to entreat every farmer, and every man who has any regard for the public good, to use his influence to put a stop to this practice, not only on his own premises, where he has an undisputed right, but throughout his neighborhood and town. Stringent laws already exist against the destruction of birds. Let every man see too it that these laws are rigidly enforced, and rest assured that he will be richly rewarded, not only by the consciousness of an act of mercy in preventing their annual and rapid diminution, but also by the fulness of joy and song with which these sweet messengers of heaven will surround his dwelling, and testify to every passer-by that there is practical Christianity enough in its owner to protect and save them.

I will thank any man, in any section of the State, to inform me of the extent of the violation of the laws of mercy and of the Commonwealth, in order that, if necessary, more effectual measures may be taken to protect the birds, and thus invite them and encourage them to live among us.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
CHARLES L. FLINT,
*Secretary of the Board of Agriculture.*

## WHAT VEGETABLES ARE BEST FOR STOCK?

Mr. Dewey is a careful farmer. He watches carefully the effect of his own methods of cultivation, and the value of his crops, and tries to improve every year by his own experience. He cannot fail to be emulous of improvement, for he is a constant and interested reader of the *Granite Farmer*, and some other agricultural papers. A few observations of Mr. D., on the business of the farm, showed so much exact and valuable knowledge, that we have not been satisfied without longer and more minute inquiries on various matters, of which the following is one:

Speaking of raising vegetables for stock, Mr. Dewey took us into his cellar, where was heaped up nearly 200 bushels of beets, the large kind for stock, called the *Mangel Wurzel*, and not far off an ample store of turnips, carrots, potatoes, &c. The beet yields bountifully, and after five years' experience, Mr. D. is satisfied that the *Mangel Wurzel* is by far the best vegetable to raise for stock. To satisfy our curiosity, he allowed us to measure the ground where the beets were grown this year, and ascertain the quantity produced. The piece of ground is about eight rods long by five in width, containing almost one quarter of an acre. The rows run across and were about two and a half feet apart. Every other row was carrots nearly all the way, there being 30 rows of beets and 24 rows of carrots in all. Every four rows of beets filled a 25 bushel cart, giving in all seven loads, good 175 bushels to the quarter acre, (or 700 bushels per acre.) Besides, the 24 rows of carrots gave 1,760 lbs. or about 32 bushels to the same quarter acre, (or 128 bushels or three and a half tons of carrots to the same acre.)

Mr. D. has planted the same piece of land with beets and alternate rows of turnips or carrots for six years, and with constantly increasing success. The land is a clayey loam. Sand is added where it is too heavy. It is plowed as deep as can be conveniently done, say from eight to ten inches, and barn-yard manure put on and plowed in

yearly, equal in quantity to the crop taken off. Mr. D. raises his own seed and sows with a machine. He procures different varieties of seed each year, so as to select choice roots for the raising of seed for the following year to improve it.

As to feeding with roots, Mr. D. says they are exceedingly valuable to keep all kinds of stock thriving, healthy and productive. He feeds them to all his stock in winter, and till they go out to grass, once or twice a week, as the store will hold out, giving about a peck at a time to a cow or an ox. He never cuts them except for sheep, and then it is easily done with a sharp shovel in a box for the purpose. Mr. D. has tried and still uses turnips and carrots, and says he would as soon have in his stock five bushels of beets as four bushels of carrots. The beets do much better for sheep than turnips. The lambs are stronger and more hardy. But the beets are especially valuable for cows giving milk. They increase the quantity and excellence of the flavor more than any other vegetable. Turnips always give a bad flavor.

So much for the *Mangel Wurzel*. It may suggest to those who have not turned their attention particularly to the subject, what is one of the secrets of raising choice stock, and also the great profit of cutivating well and manuring highly a small piece of land.—*Granite Farmer.*

---

*For the New England Farmer.*

## COUNTRY FARMERS AND CITY MECHANICS.

Country people generally are very much mistaken in their impressions as to the average wages and salaries received by city mechanics, clerks, &c. I have often been surprised at the opinions expressed by my country friends on this point, and am somewhat at a loss to account for so general misapprehension. But then so it is in everything. Let twenty men go to the city, to the West, or to California, nineteen shall utterly fail in their expectations of bettering their circumstances, may even die among strangers or by the way-side, or become wretchedly poor, vicious, criminal; one shall succeed as a merchant prince, a rich farmer, or the lucky possessor of a large "pile;"—and in the minds of the people, as on the canvas of the painter, the *nineteen* will be placed far in the back-ground—mere pigmies, if seen at all—while in the fore-ground, and in bold relief, stands out the *twentieth*, large as life and "twice as handsome," filling up the whole picture. Thus it is with wages. The foreman of a shop or overseer of a number of hands, in the city, may get his ten to twenty dollars per week, while the workmen under his direction earn from five to ten dollars, and we shall find, in the country, that everybody has heard of the twenty dollars a week, while not a word has ever reached them of poor five dollars a week.

This misapprehension, inoffensive and harmless of itself, is a very dangerous one to act upon. Under its influence many a young man, becoming disgusted with the "fifty cents a day" that are offered for his hard labor on a farm, resorts to the city with expectations as vague as they are certain to be disappointed. I have watched the progress of many such, and have learned to look upon their position as peculiarly unfortunate and dangerous. From the wages which they regarded as so contemptible in the country, they could lay aside from seventy-five to one hundred and twenty-five dollars a year, as a fund for future independence, while in the city they find it is about as impossible, as it is unfashionable, to lay by anything at all. They become disheartened, reckless, improvident; turn radicals, agrarians, infidels; rail against "corporations," the "money-power," &c., while they make themselves unhappy by brooding over the wrongs of "the working classes."

Upon the subject of the average of wages earned by mechanics in the city, I have lately made some inquiry, but with small success, so far as respects the collection of facts that can be of use in this place. I regret this, because I believe the truth of the case would do more than anything else to satisfy country boys with the farm and its hard work and small profits.

---

Thus much was written several months ago, when I stopped with the hope of receiving some statements that had been promised by several city establishments. So few and unsatisfactory, however, were the facts obtained, that my article has been delayed, until the question of high or low wages is of little importance in the minds of thousands of city mechanics, compared with that of work or no work.

I will, however, here make one or two brief statements in respect to wages.

Among my personal acquaintances, there are a few who receive from fifteen to twenty dollars a week, at my business, while the journeymen whose bills I have made out for the last seven years—varying in number from one or two to eight or ten a week—have not averaged over six dollars a week.

A shoe-dealer in the city told me his men averaged rather over six dollars a week; and I have been told by men who have worked there, that the shoemakers of Lynn do not average a dollar a day.

A friend of mine, who is engaged in another kind of business, and employs some seventy hands, boasted that his workmen averaged eight dollars a week; which he said was higher than the average at any similar establishment in the city.

Where large wages are paid we often find some reason or qualification, that did not appear at first sight. Carpenters, masons, and some others have little to do in the winter season. Some kinds of business depend on the weather; some are irregular and fluctuating,—now, in a great drive; now, nothing doing. A ship-carpenter told me that five days' work a week was considered a pretty good average for the season, on account of weather, &c. This business, besides, is somewhat unsteady. Before the California demand for shipping, the business was so dull that a neighbor of mine went off chopping wood by the cord one winter, earning seventy-five cents to a dollar and a quarter a day,—boarding himself of course,—while his country friends probably supposed he was earning two dollars and a half or three dollars every day. Such are all the facts and figures that I have to offer upon city wages. I might adduce almost any amount of "estimates" and "guesses" by those who have good opportunities of forming

opinions on the subject; but these are so low that I fear to use them, lest my country friends should think I was joking, or suspect me of exaggerating purposely to keep them away from the city, and from competing with us, for the large wages they hear of. It was with some such feelings, I well remember, that I listened some twenty years ago, to a conversation one Saturday night, in a shop in the city of New York, where I had then worked but a few weeks. The "candid opinion," of the foreman was assented to by most of the hands, that, counting all those in the city, who claimed to be journeymen at our trade—the good, bad, and indifferent, at work and out of work,—their whole earnings, one week with another, would not exceed an average of three dollars a head!

But admitting this to be a wild statement; admitting that city mechanics generally obtain living prices for their labor, there still remains one fact to which I ask particular attention, and that is, our liability of being out of work.

"Out of work!" How differently this expression falls upon the ears of country farmers and city mechanics! The one thinks only of a holiday. His crops harvested,—his barn, cellar and woodhouse filled, Out of Work has no terror for him;—only a brief relaxation, a little spell of enjoyment. To the other it is the sum of all evil, the negation of all conveniences and comforts of life His house is hired by the month or quarter, his provisions bought daily or weekly, and his fire-wood but little in advance, can he look Out of Work in the face, and not shudder? Must his little ones starve, or freeze, or be turned into the street? He trembles at the prospect; but it is not he alone that trembles,—the millionaire trembles with him, and well he may, for "hunger breaks through walls."

The riots which have occurred in London and Liverpool, and the hoarse mutterings which have been heard in our cities, should be studied by farmers' boys as a practical commentary upon their ideas of the wages of city mechanics, and of the city as the place for the enjoyment of life.

Long may our country be saved from the disgrace of deeds of violence committed by starving mechanics, and long too may the farmers of our land appreciate the blesings of that independence which saves them from an appeal to the charity and fears of the community for a plate of beans and a bowl of soup. A CITY MECHANIC.

*Boston, March*, 1855.

---

WHAT A MECHANIC CAN DO ON A FARM.—You or a correspondent asked, in a former number, "What a man can do in Virginia." I will tell you what I have done, not by way of boasting, but to answer the question, and perhaps encourage others.

I was born and raised in this county, and never had any education more than to read and write. I was bound to a trade when young, and after I was free, lived on a farm, and received $140 a year. When I was twenty-four years old I married, neither my wife nor myself having any property. We are now worth $10,000, obtained without any speculation, and in a straightforward course. I have been married about twenty years, work a farm of 238 acres, which I bought, some years ago, for $22 per acre. Last year I had 24 acres in wheat, yielding 470 bushels—63½ lbs. to the bushel. I raised 2,500 bushels of corn, which is only worth, at this time, 65 cents per bushel. My sale this year will amount to about $1,800, including pork, grain, hay, &c. I plowed an old and very poor field, last year, for corn, having spread over the ground lightly with straw, and sowing 150 lbs. guano to the acre. I mixed the straw and guano together, and raised 50 bushels of corn to the acre, working the land with a cultivator.—*American Agriculturist.*

---

## HOME.

BY AARON SMITH.

There is a simple little word—
Oh! ne'er its charm destroy—
Throughout the universe 'tis heard,
And nowhere but with joy;
There's music in its magic flow
Wherever we may roam,
The dearest, sweetest sound below;
That little wor l is Home.

The soldier in the battle's hum
May all things else forget;
'Mid bay'nets' flash, and beat of drum,
His home's remember'd yet.
The exile, doom'd on foreign lands
Through hopeless years to toil,
May do the despot's stern commands,
Yet sighs for home the while.

I care not where may be its site,
Or roof'd with straw or tile,
So that the hearth-fire burns more bright
Neath woman's radiant smile:
Affection on her fondest wing
Will to its portals fly,
And hope will far more sweetly sing
When that blest place is nigh.

It may be fancy, it may be
Something far nobler—far;
But Love is my divinity,
And Home my polar star.
Oh! sever not home's sacred ties,
They are not things of air;
The great, the learned, and the wise,
All had their training there.

*Mark Lane Express, London.*

---

*For the New England Farmer.*

## PLOWS AND STONE.

MR. EDITOR:—I have been a reader of your valuable paper for several years, and with much profit to myself; but among the many able articles it is wont to contain, a reader who resides on the cold, rough hills of Massachusetts, cannot but think how few of them are adapted to a soil hard and stony. Nearly all are inclined to foster the improvement of soils, free from stone and easy of cultivation. This I conclude from the fact that nearly all modern improvements in agricultural instruments are not adapted to the cultivation of stony soil—plows for instance. There is a long list well adapted to soils free from stone; but put these implements in a hard, stony soil, and they are good for nothing; the old plows of forty or fifty years ago will do better work. Hence the cry of gentlemen, riding through the country, that the people, at least a large number of them, obstinately follow the beaten track of their fathers, regardless of modern improvements. Is not this class

mostly those who till a hard soil? If so, the reason is plain that they use the best tools. Are not a large proportion of the farmers of Massachusetts and other States tillers of stony soil? Why, then, are they overlooked? Is the soil, or tools, incapable of improvement, or are its owners unwilling to accept of improvement?

My object, at this time, is to ascertain if there is at the present time, in the whole world, a plow manufactured for the express purpose of tilling stony soil. If there is such a thing in existence, you or any one would confer a favor, not on one merely, but on many, to let it be known, through the medium of your valuable paper, where it can be found. Until I know of something better than I now do, I shall for one beg leave to follow the good old way of my fathers in this respect.

And again, when agricultural writers recommend deep plowing and subsoiling, do they intend it for a soil filled with stone, the soil itself a little softer than the stone, and supported by a hard pan not quite as high as the third rail of the fence? Or is it for the soil along river banks and the plains of the west? If the former, we must have different tools, or request the gentlemen to come and show us how to use those we now have. What we want is, a plow that will not be frightened at the sight of a few stones, as the power to move it is easily supplied. Any information concerning the above will be thankfully received by

A Tiller of Hard and Stony Soil.

*New Marlboro', Jan.* 20, 1855.

## CLIMBING PLANTS.

Among our readers there are thousands of persons who are not farmers, but who, at some day, intend to be, and who are earnestly interested in all that pertains to rural employments. They are active business men, with intelligent families, partaking largely of their tastes for country life, and not enjoying that, beautifying the town or city home with such fruit trees, shrubbery and climbing plants as the limits of their crowded position will allow. Our suburban towns are annually increasing their attractions through this taste for the beautiful, and something of it is finding its way into the country, where grim labor alone has heretofore held undisputed dominion.

All persons, of all ages and conditions, express admiration on beholding a noble vine bending with its ripening fruit,—or a porch or piazza covered with the rich foliage of flowers of the climbing roses, filling the room, whether of cottage or palace, with their rich perfumes—or the repulsive walls of a building, covered with the silver or golden striped ivy or Virginia creeper.

The *Scarlet Trumpet Honeysuckle*, the *Yellow Trumpet Monthly*, and the *Evergreen Scarlet Monthly Honeysuckle*, are hardy and beautiful climbers for the pillars of piazzas, summer-houses, or trellises. The *Chinese twining Honeysuckle* is another, growing remarkably fast, and the flowers which first appear in June are deliciously fragrant.

The *Purple or Crimson Boursault* rose is quite a wonder of beauty in the latter part of May, when trained on the wall of a cottage, being then literally covered with blossoms—and it is so hardy that scarcely a branch is ever injured by the cold of winter.

The *Queen of the Prairies* is a superb variety, and known by some as the *Michigan Rose*. The flowers are of a deep rose color, with a white stripe in the centre of each petal. This variety is the most luxuriant grower of its class, making a surprising growth in rich soil. The *Baltimore Belle* is another perfectly hardy plant; the flowers are a pale, waxy blush, almost white, very double, and in large clusters.

The *Virginia Creeper* or *American Woodbine*, is a hardy, rapid growing, and exceedingly ornamental plant. It is a native of our woods, and climbs rocks and trees to a great height. The flower is of a reddish-green, and not showy, which is succeeded by clusters of dark-blue, nearly black, berries when mature. At the same period the fruit-stalks and tendrils assume a rich crimson or red color. The leaves are not evergreen like those of the ivy, yet in autumn, they far surpass those of that plant in the rich and gorgeous colors which they then assume. The reader is referred to Emerson's work on the Trees and Shrubs of Massachusetts, for a full description of this interesting and beautiful climber.

We have now spoken of eight varieties of climbers, all hardy and exceedingly ornamental when vigorously grown. These would give character to any garden of considerable pretensions, and any three or four of them would render our rural gardens or lawns highly attractive. They require no uncommon skill in their cultivation—the soil that would produce a good hill of corn, will sustain any one of these climbers. They should be pruned cautiously, always being careful not to use the knife and scissors too much. The dead wood should be removed. In his excellent "Book of Flowers," Mr. Breck says that "in pruning climbing roses, the operation must be different from that of the common roses, as it is necessary to retain the whole length of the most vigorous shoots, cutting out all the old wood that will not be likely to produce fine flowers, and pruning down the *lateral branches to one eye.*" But after all, the manner of pruning must be left to the good taste and judgment of the cultivator, rather than to any strict rules—the proper way will generally suggest itself. Roses may be pruned in this climate early in the spring, before many warm days have come, or in

June. Our practice is, however, to prune nearly all trees and shrubs that require it, in October, and it has been attended with good success.

It is seldom the case that so much real beauty and value can be obtained at so cheap a rate, as by the cultivation of a few of these plants about our dwellings. Downing says "the cottage in the country too rarely conveys the idea of comfort and happiness which we wish to attach to such a habitation, and chiefly because it stands bleak, solitary, and exposed to every ray of our summer sun, with a scanty robe of foliage to shelter it. How different such edifices, however humble, become when the porch is overhung with climbing plants,—when the blushing rose-buds peep in at the window sill, or the ripe purple clusters of the grape hang down about the eaves, those who have seen the better cottages of England, well know. Very little care, and very trifling expense, will procure all the additional beauty; and it is truly wonderful how much so little once done, adds to the happiness of the inmates. Every man feels prouder of his home, when it is a pleasant spot for the eye to rest upon, than when it is situated in a desert, or overgrown with weeds. Besides this, tasteful embellishment has a tendency to refine the feelings of every member of the family; and every leisure hour spent in rendering more lovely and agreeable even the humblest cottage, is infinitely better employed than in lounging about in idle and useless dissipation." Now is the "time to work"—let one beautiful climber, at least, be added to your grounds this spring, even if you have but a square yard to occupy.

---

*For the New England Farmer.*

## "ALL ABOUT GUANO."

My experience in regard to this fertilizer, like that of most of your readers, is quite too limited for furnishing reliable information on so important a subject; but such as it is, it is at your disposal.

I have made some use of guano for the two last seasons—the first was on a very limited scale but so, beneficial were its results that I was induced last spring to purchase two tons of it, at a cost, delivered by railroad, of about $112.

I made use of it on various field crops, and also on garden vegetables. About half a ton of it was applied as a top-dressing to some four or five acres of old meadow land, after having first been mixed or composted with about an equal weight of plaster, and some twelve cart loads of rolled turf. This was applied in April, and a short time after its application, a powerful rain completely inundated nearly all the ground on which it had been spread, and remained on it or continued to flow over it for two or three days. An adjoining field of my neighbor's bore ample testimony to the enriching properties of the water which flowed from my land on to his. But its effects on my own land during the fore part of the season were strikingly manifest in the deeper green and more forward growth of the grass, and I had strong hopes, then, of harvesting a bountiful crop. These hopes, however, were but partially realized, the increase of the crop not being worth more than half the expense of the manure. I may say that most of the land to which this dressing was applied became too dry after the middle of June to be benefited very much by any kind of manure.

I design this spring to use some of it on land which is rather wet and not liable to drought, and hope to succeed better. In connection with superphosphate, I used it on cabbages and turnips with satisfactory results. I also used it on about four acres of potatoes, generally in the hill or drill, according as the potatoes were planted; sometimes it was used alone, and at other times with plaster or some other fertilizing agent. I made a brief memorandum of the manner in which it was applied, in the hope that the experience of that season would furnish me some data by which I might benefit myself or others in future. Vain hope! My crop, which appeared promising at first, was nearly ruined by drought. Of course I cannot say what the effect might have been under ordinary circumstances.

I also used guano on corn in various ways, but applied too much of it on or near the surface to realize the greatest amount of benefit from it in so dry a season.

I have no doubt that much of it is yet in the ground, and will show itself the coming season. But instead of taking up more space in detailing past experiments, I will briefly give you some of the conclusions to which I have arrived as the result of observation and experience, in the use of this and other highly concentrated manures.

1. Powerful fertilizers, alone, never will make a crop.

2. Everything depends, so far as human instrumentality is concerned, on the use that is made of them, not alone, but in connection with such other constituents and appliances as are adapted to secure the desired result.

3. A very rich soil, or one that abounds in vegetable and organic substances, does not need them; unless it be to give the crop an early start in the spring or to *hasten* its growth and maturity. Such soil possesses of itself resources, which only need to be properly developed in order to render the production of a crop, under ordinary circumstances, more economical and profitable without, than with extraneous applications.

4. A soil that has become so impoverished as to be almost, or entirely, destitute of vegetable and carbonaceous matter, has also become unfitted, while in such condition, for the economical use of guano or any other powerful fertilizer.

This last remark does not apply so strictly to those plants which derive their supply of food largely from water and atmosphere, as to others which depend mainly on the constituents of the soil, in connection with water and the atmosphere. Such crops as onions, carrots and parsnips, it is true, feed largely on water, but only when they can obtain it principally, along with the soluble portions of earthy matter of which

they are composed. It should be borne in mind that in the production of a plant, not an atom of matter is called into existence, but merely a transfer of atoms from one condition or mode of existence to another. As man has not the control of the atmosphere, his only alternative is to provide for the wants of animal or vegetable life in the soil. If nature has not made such provisions, it will certainly be found to be a very expensive way of doing it by the use of guano alone, especially for the cereals, which require vegetable matter for the production and perfection of their kind. I will here venture a few suggestions for the use of guano.

1. If your corn ground is cold and heavy the fore part of June, and the plants appear yellow and sickly, apply a little of it directly to the hill; if a little of it falls upon the plant, it will seldom sustain any injury. The gain in the crop will probably be three or four times the cost of the application.

2. If you wish to raise corn-stalks for fodder, by all means use guano, and save your barn-yard manure for other crops. I do not think guano as good as yard and compost manure for making ears, but it certainly is good for making stalks. If you apply it to some remote corner of your farm on to which you cannot conveniently cart other manure, all the better, whether for this or other crops.

3. For potatoes, a compost, made of guano and well pulverized muck, would, in my opinion be preferable to barn manure, and less liable to the rot. Will you try it in some of these ways, and then give us the result of your experience?

*Bristol, Ct.* C. BLAKELY.

## HOW A THRIFTLESS FARMER WAS REFORMED.

[We copy the following story from one of Dr. Glen C. Haven's Letters to his Son, published in *Life Illustrated*:]

If you have a place for every thing, and keep it in its place, if you have a *time* to do business, and do it in its time, you will find that you will "*drive* business" instead of business driving you, and so will have leisure instead of constant worry. It pains me to see some men undertake any business of moment. They are as sure to become entangled, and thrown on to their backs, their business a-top of them, as they are to undertake it. Take farming for instance. Now I venture the assertion that two-thirds of all the farmers in *this* State are burning *green* wood this terrible cold weather. Go into their houses, and you hear the sisisng of the beech, or maple, or elm, as like to the death-dirge of a cockroach as can be. Out of the chimney tops comes forth smoke dark as Tartarus, and there wives and hired girls are cross as bedlam. These men could not find time to cut there wood and have it seasoned. Now I charge it on you, that you fail not to *have time to do* all that you undertake—*in order*. Every day accidents, casualties, catastrophes, providences are taking place, because men, women and children have not time to do things as they *ought to be done*. I must tell you a story—which is a *fact*. When I was a boy, there lived in my native village a family by the name of Wilson. There were four boys and four girls, and they were exceedingly gifted. Not one of them was there who did not rank in beauty, intellect and personal physical power a good way above mediocrity. They all had more then common educational acquirements, for they learned easily. The girls all married early, and to young men of high promise. The men all married—and to respectable women. Yet all remained poor. Their failure was directly attributable to a *want of order*. Not one of them was ever known to do a thing in its *time*, nor have a thing in its *place*—with one exception, and he is the hero of my story. Of one of the girls I may say truthfully that for over thirty-five years she has *never seen the sun rise*, always going to bed past midnight and rising past midday. But to my story. Erastus Wilson was a farmer—a shiftless, slovenly, disorderly, slip-shod farmer. The winds and the waters, the sun and rain, darkness and broad day, all conspired to do him harm. His gates were unhung, his hogs' noses were unwrung, his sheep could leap his fences like wild deer, his cattle were seen with boards over their eyes, great spiked chains on their necks, pokes on, and "tied head and foot." His horses were as thin as a Rhode Island spare rib—you could see sunrise through them. His windows had old hats, old coats, old newspapers, and shingles, instead of glass. His corn was stunted, his meadows half covered with grass, and around and about him the spirit of *decay* seemed to brood. Yet he worked hard, did not drink, nor gamble, nor quarrel. In fact, he was a *pious* man, but he did every thing at the wrong time and in the wrong way.

Thus he lived until his hair turned *gray*, and poverty sat at his table an acknowledged member of his family. One cold December day he was going to his barn, and it happened that he lifted up his eyes, and afar off in one of his lots he saw something that looked to him like deer-horns sticking through the top of a snow-drift. He was all alive. He would make a conquest—so over the fence he leaped and made for the *deer*. He waded the drifted and undrifted snow till he reached the spot, when, behold! instead of the horns of a buck, there stuck up the *two handles of his plow*. He was very angry, and started to go back, when he said he heard a voice as audibly as ever a voice spake, say, "Erastus Wilson, you deserve a good flogging for leaving your plow out in the snow. It is by such heedlessness you have come to poverty. Pick up your plow and take it to the barn."

He immediately set about it, and by what means he did it he never could tell. But through that deep snow and over the drifts he dragged the implement to the barn. Once there, he took a raw hide, stripped himself naked, and addressed himself:

"Erastus Wilson, you are a mean, dirty, poverty-stricken man. All your long life you have been too lazy to save what you have earned, or too careless to do it. You deserve a flogging. Here is your plow whose handles you could never see, till you thought them the horns of a deer, then you could wade drifts waist deep to get them. You deserve a good flogging, you careless blockhead, and you shall have it;" and he laid the raw hide on to his body, legs and feet, till he

raised great wales, he skipping around the floor naked and screaming, while he would say, "Leave your plow out! will you? Pretty farmer you are, aint you? I'll see if I can't teach you better." Thus he flogged himself most soundly, dressed himself, and went in. From that flogging he came forth a changed man. He was prompt, orderly, saving, and up with the times. His neighbors were surprised. His family were wonder-struck. He began to thrive, and in less than three years his farm, his flocks and herds all bore the evidence of being under the guidance of a spirit whose energies were of the amplest order. About this time he sickened and died.

## NEW BOOKS.

*The Practical Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Gardener's Companion, with a Calendar. With elegant Illustrations.* This is another work from the distinguished agricultural publishers, SAXTON & Co., New York. We have examined it with some care, and believe it will be found serviceable to every man who cultivates a garden.

It treats, in the first place, of the *fruit* and *kitchen garden* in general,—of situation, shelter, water, soils and manures. Then of the *fruit garden*,—of the propagation of fruit trees by seed, by layers, by grafting, and planting and training of fruit trees. Something, also, of the grape vine, fig, peach, nectarine, &c., and of the small fruits, the currant, strawberry and blackberry. It then briefly describes nearly all the vegetables usually cultivated in the *kitchen garden*, and the manner of sowing and tending them. The *flower garden* is also described, its soil, walks, edgings, &c., and many of the flowers enumerated adapted to the various seasons. The *forcing garden* comes next, and the construction of furnaces, the modes of heating by steam or hot water, and the admission of light and air minutely described and illustrated by cuts, so that the whole process is plain.

To these is added a calendar of horticultural duties for each of the months, and a select list of fruits. The modes of grafting, budding, of espalier training, training of wall trees, and horizontal and fan training are all illustrated by good engravings.

"The work is pre-eminently suggestive. The reader will be surprised at the amount of valuable thought and accurate information herein embodied." It was prepared by Patrick Neill, Secretary of the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society, and adapted to the United States by G. EMERSON, a gentleman eminently qualified for the work. Price $1.25.

*Breck's Book of Flowers.* J. P. JEWETT & Co., Boston. By JOSEPH BRECK, Seedsman and Florist, and a gentleman who knew what he was about when he prepared this agreeable and useful work. In its comprehensiveness and arrangement it is excellent, and its topics are treated with so much delicacy, good taste and poetic feeling, as to give the whole a bewitching charm. If any young lady will look over its pages for half an hour, and then confess that she has no taste for a garden and flowers, why, then, she isn't fit to have the care of children, that's certain; at any rate, we would not let her teach ours! Printed and bound beautifully.

*For the New England Farmer.*

## ABOUT GUANO AND SUPERPHOSPHATE.

I took pains early in the spring, when the rain was pouring down in torrents, to go about four miles to an old dry pasture to sow some guano superphosphate and plaster. During the summer, I often went to see its effects, but saw no effect at all. On a piece of moist pasture, with clay bottom, I sowed some phosphate, and it caused the clover to come in very thick; but plaster would do equally as well, if not better, as it is plainly to be seen half a mile distant, where the plaster was sown thickest; but on corn I was pleased with its effects. The best corn I raised was on a piece that was spread lightly with common manure, and then a small handful of phosphate put in the hill. It was not measured, but was pronounced by good judges to be the best piece of corn in these parts—far better than my other pieces that were spread and dunged in the hill liberally.

A gentleman of our town had an acre of worn-out, sandy land, which he did not consider worth cultivating; on this I sowed, on the 12th of June, 200 lbs. of guano, and plowed in deep. I then planted it with an early kind of corn, putting 75 lbs. of phosphate in the hill, and the result was a very good piece of corn, and ripe in good season.

In September last I seeded down some land, sowing part with phosphate and a part with guano; the result you shall have in due time. As I said last year, so I say this,—for corn, give me a tablespoonful of phosphate in preference to any other manure in the hill; but you want to spread some other manure and plow in deep, that the corn roots can feed upon in August and September. This is of more special benefit to those who have moist, hilly land, that cannot be worked early. If the manure is put in the hill, the heat of the sun causes it to burn up and leave a dry mass at the roots, and thus not only the virtue of the manure is gone, but it retards the growth of the corn during the whole season; while, on the contrary, if this had been plowed in and phosphate put in the hill, the latter would have given it a good start, and the former would have been incorporated with the soil, ready for the roots in autumn.

Yours truly, L. W. CURTIS.

*Globe Village, March*, 1855.

PRICES THIRTY-SEVEN YEARS AGO. — Looking over our file for 1817, we cast our eyes upon the prices current of February of that year; and as an evidence that the present prices of many lead-

ing articles have not come up to that time, we give a few samples. The prices given, it must be recollected, are the wholesale; the retail were of course higher.

Bacon, 15 cents; barley, $1,25 to $1,50; beans, $4 to $4,50 per bushel; butter, shipping, No. 1, 24 cents, No. 2, 22 cents; corn, $1,90 to $2,10; coffee, 19 to 21 cents. Virginia coal, from $9 to $15; flour, $14 to $15; hay $21 to 24; molasses, 48 to 54 cents; peas, $2,50 to $3; rice, 7 cents; rye, $1,75 to $3; sugar, loaf, 23 to 25 cents; brown, 11 to 15 cents; teas, hyson, $1,70, hyson skin, $1, souchong, 68 to 75 cents. —*Portsmouth Journal.*

*For the New England Farmer.*

## CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

"A merciful man is merciful to his beast." Tried by this test, the number of those who can appropriate the promise made to the "merciful" must be few indeed.

Touching this matter, there is a lamentable defect in our education. Children are not taught, as they should be, that brutes have nerves and are subject to pain, for aught we know, as acute as human beings; and that to needlessly inflict pain even upon a worm, is inhuman, not to say sinful.

Inhumanity to man everybody condemns. And who does not know, that the boy who can remorselessly rob a bird of her eggs, and destroy her nest, has taken the first step in his education towards heartless tyranny?

*Working Oxen.*—There are various modes in which this tendendy to ignore the feelings of brutes manifests itself. The patient ox who tills our ground and bears our burdens, laboring when and where the interest or caprice of his owner may dictate, till, by reason of age, he is worth more for the butcher than for the team, deserves while he lives, to be well-fed and kindly treated. How seldom, alas, is this his fate! We occasionally see a man driving oxen, who seems to be conscious that they can *feel*. But oftener far, the teamster seems to regard skill in the use of his implements of torture, as the perfection of his art. Consequently he is incessantly belaboring the faithful, submissive beast with his cudgel, whip, or goad, whenever he thinks his blows will occasion the most pain.

In some parts of New England, especially in Maine, teamsters use what they call "goads." This consists of a rod with a spike in one end about half an inch in length. With this they perforate the skins of the poor animals, as often as they need exercise or recreation.

The savage who fills the flesh of his victim with barbed arrows and lighted pitch pine splinters, may plead his belief that thereby he shall propitiate the Great Spirit. For this wanton cruelty of the teamster, no apology can be found in Pagan, much less in Christian ethics.

Then the idea of whipping an ox to make him draw, seems to me unphilosophical. As with children, it may sometimes be necessary to inflict bodily pain in order to bring the will into subjection. But this whipping an ox by way of preparation to draw, reminds me of the provident father who, being much from home, was wont to call his boys together Monday morning, and administer to each a severe flagellation; reminding them, if they demurred on the score of innocence, that they would merit it before the close of the week.

Like begets like. Be gentle to the ox, treat him kindly, and he will be gentle in turn, and will draw all he can, and bear with patience all good burdens. A good teamster, with no whip but a corn stalk or an oat straw, and without noise, will make his team do all he desires, and that with alacrity.

The *whip*-ster on the other hand, making so many and such unearthly noises, that in the days of our grandfathers, his approach would be mistaken for an incursion of savages, and pounding and punching and pricking all the spirit, animation, courage and strength out of his team, getting "stalded," as they say in Virginia, at every tight place, accomplishes nothing but the ruin of his team and his own disposition.

If I shall have induced one individual to adopt a more humane and more rational course in the management of working oxen, I shall not have written in vain. R. B. H.

## LECTURE ON AN IMPROVED FIRE SYSTEM.

*Reported for the New England Farmer,*
BY WILLIAM W. HILL.

In lieu of the usual discussion on agricultural matters, the attendants upon the Legislative Agricultural Meetings were on Tuesday evening last, treated to a well-written and interesting lecture upon an improved system of protection from fires, by JOSEPH BIRD, Esq., of Watertown.

The lecturer opened with an eloquent portrayal of the characteristics of fire as witnessed in the destruction of human dwellings, and often of human life, and remarked that no subject was more important to the community, either socially or financially. In support of the financial view of the matter, he read an extract from *Silliman's Journal*, in which it was stated that great fires had invariably preceded the periods of great commercial distress in this country, and the theory was broached that they exerted a vast, if not a controlling influence upon the financial condition of the community. In proof of this the great fire in New York in 1836, and the numerous fires which occurred in the United States the last year, were cited. It was estimated that the annual loss from fire is $18,000,000, but the speaker believed that the losses were nearer $25,000,000.

He then proceeded to discuss two points—first, is our present system for the prevention of fires, efficient? And second, can it be made efficient without too great an expenditure of money? To the first proposition he replied no. In the country, the engine is often a mile or two from the burning building, and time is required before the firemen can assemble to take the engine to the fire, and after they get there no reservoir of water is at hand for their use. Their efforts are

consequently almost useless, and the building is destroyed. The same is true in a great measure in regard to cities. This displays the inefficiency of the present system. Before the department can get to work, they are powerless before a sea of fire. Our engines are so large and costly, and it takes so many men to handle them, who also want compensation, that it is put out of the power of nearly all country towns to keep a sufficient number to meet all emergencies.

Taking up the second proposition, the lecturer forcibly argued that the present system could be made more efficient, and cheaply too. By the substitution in Cambridge, for instance,—where they maintain several large engines at an annual expense of $11,400, and valued $20,000,—of 100 small engines costing $25 each, with thirty feet of hose, which would throw a three-eighths inch stream upon the roof or into the windows of any ordinary dwelling house, having them distributed in different parts of the city, they would in less than one year pay for themselves by the decreased losses from fire which would follow by such a system. Nearly every dwelling would be in the immediate neighborhood of one of these engines, which could be worked with less than half of the labor now expended upon the large ones, and half a dozen of them could be upon the ground in a very few minutes after the alarm was given. They would also tend to lessen the losses by fire, in the obstacle which they would be in the way of the incendiary through the celerity with which fire can be extinguished with them. They would put out ten fires where a large one does one. Numerous cases were cited to sustain these views.

There are more than one hundred towns in this commonwealth, which are entirely unprotected, while the whole farming interest is in a helpless condition in case of fire. The small engines, the speaker said, had been tested, and found fully competent to do all that large engines could do, and more than that, would put out a fire before large engines could be brought to the spot. Their efficiency has been witnessed by great numbers of people. The lecturer's plan is to have a fire department including both small and large engines, the former to act chiefly as preventatives of destructive fires, and the latter on lofty buildings and where the fire has made great headway before being discovered. By the use of one small engine upon the first breaking out of the disastrous fires which have occurred in San Francisco, millions of dollars might doubtless have been saved.

Another argument in favor of small engines is, that where a town introduces ten or twenty, the citizens, witnessing their efficiency and cheapness, will introduce others as a special protection for their own premises—so that the number will be indefinitely increased, and the chances of loss by fire consequently vastly lessened. Captain Barnicoat, the late veteran chief of the Boston Fire Department, had told the lecturer that he considered the present engines in that city as too large, and that smaller ones would possess great advantages over them.

Another consideration urged by the lecturer was, that our numerous school-houses, academies, colleges, alms-houses, &c., are entirely unprotected from sudden fire, and thus the lives of the inmates are greatly hazarded. This danger could be obviated by having a small engine in the building.

Upon the conclusion of the lecture, some remarks were made by Mr. WM. HALL, Representative from Bradford, who commended the views advanced by Mr. BIRD, and cited cases where his observation corroborated the statements made by him. He also alluded to the bad moral influences which cluster around the present fire system, and which operate so unfavorably upon the young men connected with them, and lead often to incendiarism.

Mr. BUCKMINSTER, of the *Ploughman*, suggested that hogsheads of water might be kept on hand in farm houses, as a precaution against fire. On his own place, he kept a pail of water in each room in the second story, and although a simple precaution, it might, notwithstanding, prove very effective in an emergency.

Mr. DARLING, of Boston, made some statements illustrative of the immoral character of fire companies, under the present system. He advocated the feasibility of using small engines, and thus diminishing the number of large fire companies.

On Tuesday evening next, the present series of agricultural meetings will be brought to a close. It is understood that Governor GARDNER will preside on the occasion. The subject for discussion has not been announced.

---

*For the New England Farmer.*

## WASTE OF MANURES---MUCK---HOPS.

MR. EDITOR:—Though a pastor, I have ever endeavored to impart important instruction to my people on *agriculture*. Nor do I consider this a departure from my appropriate sphere, any more than when I advocate and endeavor to illustrate the importance of improvement in *schools*. When I see my people suffering loss from exposing *manure* to all the winds of heaven, and all "the peltings of the pitiless storm," I feel it my duty to expostulate with them. And when I see them utterly regardless of the kind provisions of Providence in the inexhaustible beds of what Dana calls "vegetable cow manure," abounding in this section of Vermont, I cannot fail to charge them with being recreant to the duties they owe to themselves, to the community and to religion.

The greatest mistakes of farmers in this county

are in the two particulars above mentioned. Another prominent error is too shallow plowing. The soil in this county is generally very deep—in many tracts two to three feet—and should be plowed to the depth of ten or twelve, instead of four to six inches. The farmers who plowed to the greatest depth, suffered the least from the drought of the last summer.

In one or two of our towns, *hop growing* is becoming "the mania," one of the results of which is already being experienced—an obvious deterioration of the soil, and a deficiency in breadstuffs and fodder. To say nothing of *hop growing* in its relation to temperance, I must regard it as a serious evil to the *true wealth* of every agricultural community. Whatever tends to lessen the quantity of manure, or to use up the strength of the soil, must in the end prove injurious.

Respectfully yours, SAMUEL W. HALL.
*Brownington, Vt.*, 1855.

---

*For the New England Farmer.*

## SOILING CATTLE.

In the *Farmer* of March 31, HENRY F. FRENCH, Esq., gives us his "Thoughts on Climate," in which he assumes that the expense of keeping cattle, horses, sheep, &c., during our New England winters, exceeds that of keeping the same number of animals in a southern climate, where they obtain their own forage, by the total amount of our hay crop. This crop in New England is estimated at thirty-five millions of dollars; and, if the assumption be correct, it is certainly a pretty large expenditure in the competition of climates. I hope, however, that none of our New England farmers will be induced, by this array of figures, to emigrate to the south—at least, not until they have looked a little below the surface of the calculation. Mr. French must be aware that it requires land, and a good deal of it, to pasture cattle during the winter, and that lands thus grazed the whole year round, without opportunity to rejuvenate, must gradually deteriorate, though they be composed of the richest alluvions of the southern valleys. It may be true that the wild cattle of the great *pampas* of South America are raised more cheaply than our domestic cattle; but we do not learn that those who catch and kill them for their hides and tallow, become more wealthy than our New England farmers. When those immense plains are parcelled out into farms, it will be time enough to settle the question whether cattle can be raised cheaper because there is no winter.

It is not, however, with a view of discussing the relative advantages of different localities in regard to the hay crops, that I have taken Mr. French's remarks for a text. My real object is to say a few words upon a subject which those remarks indirectly involve—namely, the *soiling* of cattle. In England, where the price of land is exceedingly high, (although the pastures are more productive than ours,) this mode is fast becoming one of almost universal practice. It consists simply of mowing the grass and feeding it out to the cattle, both summer and winter, instead of pasturing them through the summer. It takes about ten acres of our common pasture land to keep a cow well through the summer; while *one* acre, well cultivated, will perform the same service, if the grass be cut and fed out. Where the price of land is high, it will take but few figures to show that the interest on the cost of the extra nine acres, far exceeds that of cutting and feeding out the grass on the one acre—to say nothing of the great saving of manure by the soiling process. It is, I believe, the universal testimony of English farmers that soiling is the cheapest process, aside from the fact that it is a conservative mode of farming, and greatly increases the productiveness of land from year to year. It is but fair to presume that cattle trample down quite as much grass in the pasture as they eat, while the too frequent croppings binds the sod and hardens the surface of the soil. If soiling cattle is, in the end, cheaper than the pasturing of them, then the thirty-five millions worth of hay, used up of a winter in New England, is well expended.

I really wish some of our milk-farmers in the neighborhood of Boston would try the experiment of *soiling* their cows, and give us the results. It is an experiment which cannot be tried fairly in one year or five; but I candidly believe that, in ten years, any farmer trying the experiment, would be astonished at the increased aggregate productiveness of his land. E. C. P.
*Somerville.*

P. S. In regard to my article on the subject of growing fruit trees, you expressed regret that I did not give my experience as to the proper time for trimming them. The cause of the omission lies in the fact that I have not *fully* made up my own mind on the subject. From what experience I have, I incline to the opinion that about the time of the fall of the leaf, is the best for trimming off all small shoots or suckers, and that the fore part of June is the best time for cutting off larger limbs, where such amputation is deemed necessary. The question, however, is a very important one to fruit-growers, and I dislike to hazard a positive opinion until I *feel* positive.

---

REMARKS.—We think the remarks of Mr. French agree with those of "E. C. P."—that, upon the whole, it is best to remain in New England awhile longer.

We believe there is no one operation in which the farmer acts so much in direct opposition to his interests, as in that of pruning his orchards. The axe and the saw are now daily mutilating and giving mortal wounds to many a fair and promising tree, and this is done against the laws of vegetable physiology, and contrary to the plain principles of nature, merely to conform to an old custom.

---

SOAP VERSUS HENS AND CROWS.—Mr. Levi D. Cowles, of this place, informs us that he and his brother, Chester Cowles, have thoroughly tried the soaking of seed-corn in soap over night and rolling in plaster before planting, as a means of securing quick and vigorous growth, and as a remedy against crows and hens; and he says that nothing will give the corn a better start, and that neither hens nor crows will touch the corn when so treated. We have often heard of this before. The Messrs. Cowles say it is positively so.
*Nash's Farmer.*

## HIGH PRICES.

Within the memory of every grown up man, eighty dollars was considered a high price for a horse that now sells at two hundred, and sixty dollars would buy a likely yoke of six and a half foot oxen, which will now bring a hundred and twenty. A good cow which used to be thought dear at twenty-five dollars, now cannot be bought for less than fifty, and so through all the prices of live stock. Again, the prices current, at retail, in all the principal towns of New England, show that butter is worth thirty cents a pound, beef from ten to fifteen, potatoes a dollar a bushel, hay about twenty dollars the ton, and the rest of our products in proportion. These prices are nearly double those of the average prices of the last thirty years, though we are not forgetful of the high prices of 1836 and 7, which, by the way, are readily accounted for, by the general inflation of the paper currency and credit system, and the speculating mania of those times.

It concerns the farmer, now, to inquire a little into the causes of the present extraordinary selling value of commodities, with a view to deciding, if possible, what course is best for him to pursue, in the production of them, for the market. If such prices are to continue, he may well consider, whether he may not take such advantage of them, as to turn his labor and his land to better than usual account. We can afford to expend two dollars a ton, beyond our usual amount, to produce our crop of hay, when it may be sold at six or eight above its common price; and we may hire a little more help in the dairy profitably, when butter is worth thirty cents a pound.

What causes the present high prices? We will not pretend that we can answer this question with entire satisfaction to ourselves, yet there are facts, within the knowledge of all, which, no doubt, tend to produce this state of affairs. The war in Europe may be named as one of them. Eighty thousand men, it is said, have already perished on the side of England and France, before Sebastopol. Add to this number, those who have been enrolled in the armies of the allies, above the number of the regular standing armies of those nations, and those who are indirectly turned from their accustomed pursuits, to convey troops, carry provisions, attend the sick, and the like, and we have probably an hundred thousand men, in England and France alone, withdrawn from the business of cultivating the earth.

Add to those an equal number, engaged in the service of Russia, and the vast increase of the armies of Austria, and of most of the European powers, who watch, with drawn swords, in preparation for battle, the issue of the pending contest, uncertain when they may be called on to engage in it, and it would not perhaps be an over-estimate to say that a quarter of a million of men are, at the present time, called away from laboring on the earth by the pending war!

Again, emigration from Great Britain, and especially from Ireland, has materially lessened the productive force of that nation. Much of this labor has gone to Australia, where it is employed in digging gold, and in the preparation for a new mode of life. Emigration to Kanzas and the West generally, has, in some localities in New England, been so extensive as to lessen the value of farms thus deserted, and the labor of those emigrants, thus interrupted, cannot for some years be applied to the soil so as to return to the markets its former amount of products. The unusual influx of gold into this country and Europe, has doubtless an effect to produce an *apparent* increase of prices. We say apparent, because an influx of gold, like an inflation of the paper currency, adds nothing to the real value of property. Its effect is merely to make money less valuable, so that more of it is given for articles of real value, as the products of the earth and of the arts. So far as this cause has operated to raise prices, we can apprehend no sudden change, for the production of gold seems to be already a regular business, as uniform in its results as other pursuits, and will probably so continue.

There seems to us no immediate prospect of peace among the nations. The labor which should go to feed the hungry and clothe the naked, is desecrated in mutual destruction, and another harvest, at least, must be gathered, before the poor survivors of the battle-fields find their way to their native lands, to renew their accustomed employment; and many years will pass, before the effect of this awful violation of the beautiful system of Providence, which gives bread for labor, will cease, and the regular laws of demand and supply be again established.

We believe that the products of the earth must continue to bear a high price, at least through another winter. It becomes the farmer, then, to make his plans, so as to have little to buy, and to make his products large, even at an unusual expense.

We are no advocates for lavish expenditures, but we believe that the farmer may safely employ more labor than usual this season, and may judiciously expend for manure, both of the stable and for guano and superphosphate of lime, and plaster and ashes, more freely than heretofore. He may feel assured that his own labor, skilfully applied to his farm, will be, this season, liberally rewarded.

Let not the farmer be behind other men in

watching the signs of the times, and let him make up, by foresight and skill and energy, what he lacks in the natural fertility of a New England soil.

## HOW TO ENRICH A GARDEN.

Messrs. Editors:—A few years ago I had occasion to occupy a new garden. It had been worn by continual cropping without manuring, till it would not produce half a crop of any thing. I had no manure to put upon it. I could have bought open barn-yard manures, that had been washed and bleached through the year till most of the salts and all the *urine* was gone, but I thought it would not pay well. Nor could I any better afford to cultivate a garden to the halves. There was a half acre in the garden. I planted about one-third of it to white sugar beet. The remainder to corn, potatoes, peas, beans, squashes, melons, cabbages, tomatoes, onions, &c. &c. There was one thing that I could do. I had a family of five, three adults and two children, one an infant. I placed a half hogshead, convenient for receiving the dirty slops of the family, including the urine of the chambers. This was filled about once a day through the week and two or three times on Mondays. My method of applying it was this: at evening I began at one end of the garden, and with a pail and dipper, I threw it upon the hills and beds of every thing I planted, till the tub was emptied. The second evening, I began where I left off the first, and continued on till the tub was again emptied. So I continued till I had gone over the whole garden. I continued to repeat the same process through the entire season, or until the garden had become so matured as to need no more food. The first time going through the garden, as the seeds were not up, I used a large watering-pot, with a coarse nose. The second time through, I used the pail and dipper, and applied the liquid around the young plant. As the plants became large and nearly covered the ground, I applied the liquid to the ground wherever it was naked.

And now for the result. I had a neighbor, Dr. C., a competitor in the gardening line, that summer. His garden joined mine, the same size and the same quality of soil. He had plenty of open barn-yard manure and plenty of time to work his garden. He often boasted of having had the best garden in town, and thought he should have the best, notwithstanding mine. But no sooner were the gardens both well up, than the Dr. began to show signs of suspicion that he should be beat. About the first of July he came into my garden and said, "I have come to inquire into the secret of your power over the vegetable kingdom. The rapid growth of your garden is a great mystery to me. Your garden was plowed once, mine twice, and dragged well. Yours was run down and had no manure, mine was in better order, and besides, had plenty of manure. Mine also has had a little better attention than yours, and now the first of July, yours is certainly thirty if not fifty per cent. ahead of mine. Tell me what you have done to it." "Well, Doctor, come with me into my wood-house," said I. "There, that tub, with the help of my good wife, contains all the secret there is about it. I have been feeding my garden just as you do your pigs." "Well, now I see what you have been doing all summer. I supposed you were watering your garden all summer, and I wondered why you should be doing that when there has been plenty of rain. Now I see the mystery."

That garden, Messrs. Editors, had the reputation of being the most thrifty and the most productive of any garden in the county. That was my first experiment with the waste water of the family. And as that was applied to a half acre of worn-out land for only a part of four months in the year, I came to the conclusion that had the whole been judiciously applied one entire year, it would have been amply sufficient to keep, in a high productive order, two acres. But in this estimate, I have not included the excrement from the privy. My opinion was then formed, and has been confirmed by later experiments, that the manure from the family would be amply sufficient to enrich as many acres for all the purposes of agriculture, as there are members in the family, and this, too, exclusive of absorbents to be used. But, by the judicious use of absorbents, the amount could be easily doubled or quadrupled even. And this would be the true way of saving and using the liquid. With the expense of one-half ton of guano, in *permanent fixings*, any farmer could make from his house one ton a year through several generations. It will *certainly* pay. J. L. Edgerton. *Georgia, Vt.—Country Gentleman.*

*For the New England Farmer.*

## SPRINGS---LIVE AND DEAD WEIGHT OF CATTLE.

I would like to propose one or two questions, for you or some of your able contributors to explain. Last season, it being very dry and water scarce, I thought it would be a good plan to bring water into my yard for cattle, although I already had a well with a pump: so I went to work and dug me a well, before any of the rains came, where I had four feet fall from the bottom of the well to the top of where I wanted my trough to stand. I dug my ditch, put down my lead pipe, and it worked finely. But the query is this: I have observed that, for some few nights in succession, the trough would not get full, and at others it would fill to overflowing, with the same outlet.

Now will you, or some of your correspondents, be good enough to explain this to an ignorant brother farmer? Will you also tell the difference between live and dressed weight in oxen, from six to seven feet in girth and upwards, stall fed? Will you give us in your quotations, under the head of extras, the highest price paid as well as the lowest? For we in the back ground want to know what is going on, as well as the rest of the folks.

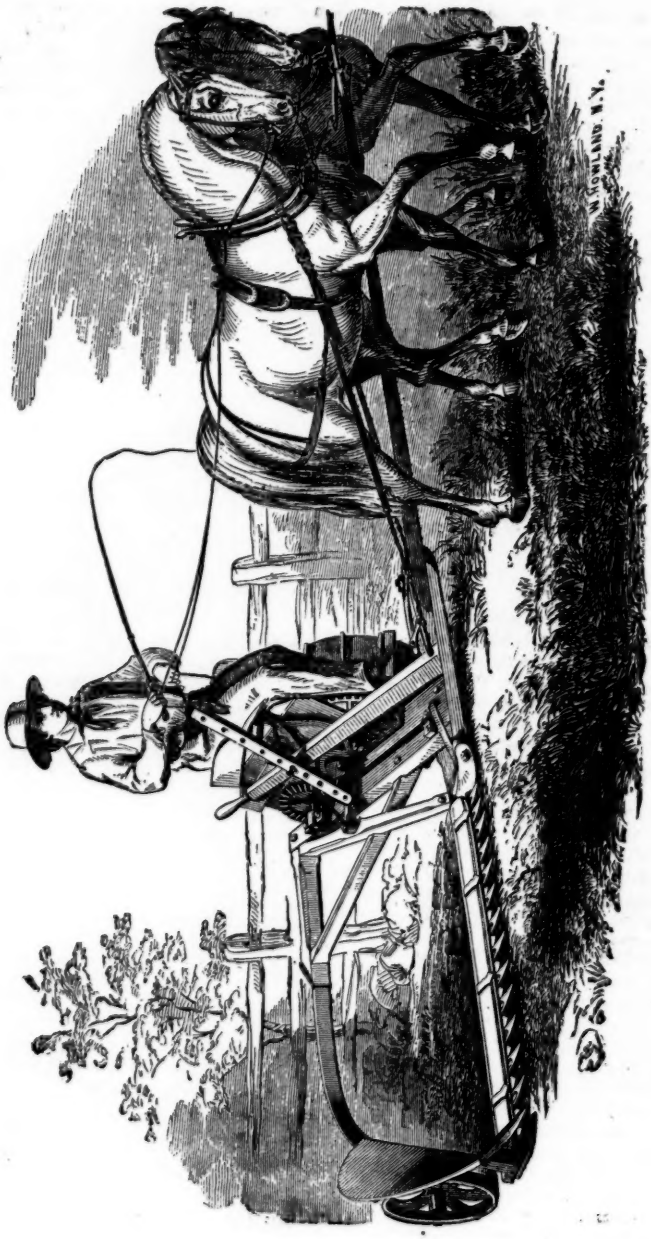
Yours, and the friend to all farmers,

A. S. Worthen.

*New London, N. H., Feb.*, 1855.

Remarks.—Will some correspondent reply?

Seeds and Scions.—We thank our young friends, Emily F. and Henry B. Hanford, of Waukeshaw, Wisconsin, for seeds and scions of the crab-apple.



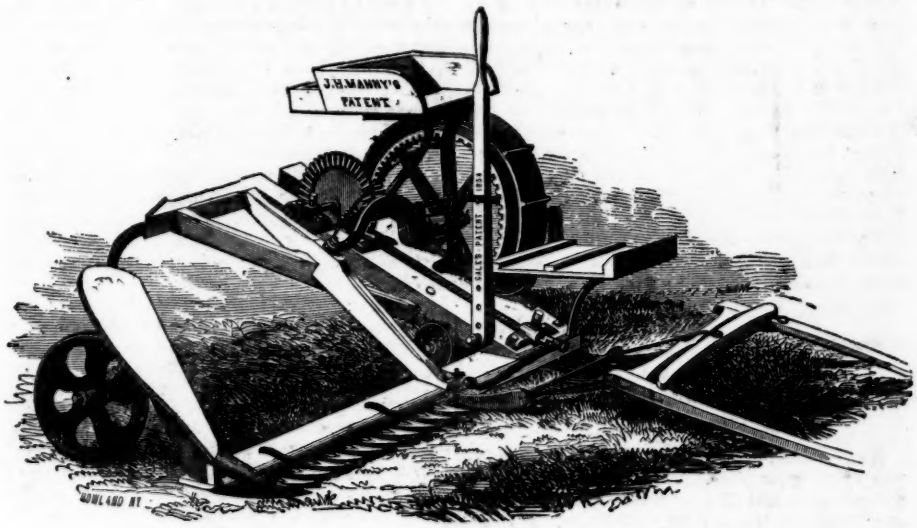
MANNY'S IMPROVED MOWING AND REAPING MACHINE.

## MANNY'S IMPROVED MOWING AND REAPING MACHINES.

It is one of our principal objects to present to the farmer such new machines and implements, and improvements in old ones, as will best facilitate his operations, and enable him to transfer a large amount of labor from his own thews and sinews to the horse and the ox and the machine. The suggestions of a scientific mind will enable him to accomplish in a day, through the agency of animal power, and a few cogs and wheels and knives, what the exertions of twenty-five able bodied men would fail to complete.

The hay crop in New England is one of great importance; it comes, too, before the hoeing is finished, while the duration of the period of hot and drying days, when hay makes rapidly and well, is not of sufficient length to allow us to linger, or to neglect any modes by which the work may be done quickly.

A good *Mowing Machine* would be a blessing, indeed, to the farmers of New England; one that would cut the grass and leave it in a suitable condition to dry readily, and that could be managed by a boy, or some one not sufficiently athletic to handle the scythe.




We present these sketches of Manny's machines, now, in season, that the reader may have opportunity to learn of their ability to do his work, by inquiry, examination and early trial. We have examined them with interest and care, and, to our judgment, they commend themselves. We have not tried, or seen them in operation. Numerous certificates are before us from gentlemen who have used them, and who attest to their eminent ability to perform the work required of them. They are for sale by Nourse & Co., 9 and 13 Commercial Street, Boston, where circulars and minute descriptions may be obtained. The price of the two horse mower, which cuts a swarth of 4 feet, is $100.00; that of the one horse, with 3 feet swarth, is $90.

---

Poor and Good Farming.—To plant without manure, and sell the crop off the land, is the poorest of all farming; but to plant either with manure or without, cultivate thoroughly, consume the crop on the land, and to secure to it the benefit of all the manure, is the beginning of good farming.

*For the New England Farmer.*

## PRICES AND WEATHER IN IOWA.

Esteemed Friend:—Having changed my place of residence from the sterile hills of the Granite State, and taken up an abode on a fertile spot in this State, I thought it might not be uninteresting to the readers of the *Farmer* to contrast, for a moment, some of the dissimilarities of the two sections of country, as have naturally come to my observation during a winter's residence here, particularly as relates to the weather, &c. The *Farmer* and other sources have not failed to announce that it has been a remarkable hard winter in New England, not only as to extreme cold and deep snows, but also from the want of employment for the working-classes of the community, and the high prices of provisions.

During the twelfth month of 1854, and until the middle of the first month of the current year, we had occasionally a cold day or two, and then warm again. About the latter date, more steady cold set in. On the 23d of the first month, the mercury fell to 8° below zero; and on the 26th of the second month, it fell to 10½° below. These are the greatest extremes of cold that have occurred here, as reported by Job Briggs, a neighbor of mine, a highly respectable and careful sci-

entific man, that may be fully relied on. The intermediate weather was somewhat variable, from mild and thawy to the above given state of the thermometer. There has not been on the ground, at any one time during the winter, more than four inches of snow, until the 16th inst., when we had about eight inches, (our robin storm.) Previous to this the weather was warm, and farmers had commenced to sow their wheat.

There is an unreasonable contrast in the price of provisions there and here; simply because there is, as yet, no railroad from the Mississippi river, and these hard times in the east, and all over the world, will tend *directly* to retard its construction. Corn here is worth twenty-five cents; wheat, from sixty to seventy-five cents; pork from two to three cents per pound.

Now I don't wish to dishearten any of the good New England farmers, but only to encourage some of those, who depend on their every-day earnings to feed perhaps a large family, to think if they might not help form a part of the respectable number of farmers already in this new farming State—to the advantage of their *sons at least*, many of whom, while the father is hard at work to get off his daily allowance of shoes, (or his family must come short,) are perhaps worse than idle.

The city of Oskaloosa, only twelve years ago ceded from the wolves and Indians, has now 2500 inhabitants, and stores, &c., furnishing every thing for comfort and convenience.

DANIEL FRY.

*Oskaloosa, Mahaska Co., Iowa, 3 Mo. 20, 1855.*

---

*For the New England Farmer.*

## GRAVEL WALLS.

MR. EDITOR:—A few days since, my attention was called to an article in your January number, requesting information as to the manner of erecting "gravel wall or concrete buildings," the cost, &c. My engagements preventing a reply at the moment, an intimation of the inquiry was given to GEO. B. PARROTT, Esq., Civil Engineer of Boston, (a gentleman well qualified to advise on the subject,) from whom the following communication was received.

At an early day, I will endeavor to add some remarks from observations and inquiries I have made in reference to this subject. W. H. N.

*Waltham, March, 1855.*

---

DEAR SIR:—At your request I herewith furnish you with a report upon the subject of building with what is called the "gravel wall," or concrete. Properly managed it not only makes a very cheap, but at the same time a most durable wall. The use of this kind of wall is very ancient, for it is found to have been employed by the Romans. "The walls of the fortress of Cindad Rodrigo, in Spain, are also of concrete. The marks of the boards which retained the semi-fluid matter in their construction are everywhere visible."

Of course, the quality of the wall must depend upon the *nature of the materials to be employed.*

In almost every building constructed in this vicinity, we find different methods used in making the concrete, and the construction of the works is left, almost invariably, to some hod-carrier, who only knows that he has been accustomed to make up the materials in a certain manner, *without knowing any one of the principles which regulate the action of the materials he works with.* We thus find that nearly all of the wall constructed during the past season in this vicinity is simply made by turning over the lime and mixing it with the gravel; water is then thrown upon it and it is left to absorb moisture necessary for its slaking; it is then turned over once, and in some cases twice with a shovel. It is then in a *hot* state deposited in the boxes, and left to arrange itself as best it may. Such a mode of proceeding leads directly to a waste of materials, and failures are consequently frequent.

A very important lesson is to be derived from these failures. They clearly demonstrate that the greatest possible care must be taken in the mixture of the ingredients; that the first condition necessary to obtain good concrete is, that the lime be brought to the state of a perfect hydrate previous to its being mixed with the other materials, and when deposited in the boxes, it should be well beaten with a rammer to prevent the materials from separating.

The quantites of sand and gravel to be used, of course vary according to the quality of the lime and sand. The proportion found to yield a good result is as follow:—33 parts of rich lime, 33 parts of sand, and 66 parts of broken stone or gravel.

---

*For the New England Farmer.*

## GAS LIME.

MR. BROWN:—Seeing an inquiry from two of your correspondents concerning *gas lime*, I will give my experience with it as a manure, though small; but then, you know, "every little helps."

Last spring I bought a barrel of it, for which I paid $1,00. Plaster sold at that time for $1,33, of which I bought a barrel, and mixed it with the lime one month before using. I applied it to corn with apparently good effect. My corn was not killed by it, though others make that complaint; but, in every case where the corn was killed, fresh lime or ashes were mixed with it, or as least so far as I know. My lime and plaster cost me 1,17 per barrel, instead of $1,33, as it would had I bought all plaster. I think fresh lime as cheap at $2,00 per cash as the gas lime at $1,00, though it would have to be applied with more caution, if applied in the hill when newly slaked. If others have had any experience with this kind of lime, will they be so kind as let us hear about it. S. TENNEY.

*W. Portland, Andg. Co., Me., Feb., 1855.*

---

CORN COBS.—Corn cobs contain considerable farinaceous matter, the same as the corn itself; and it is said that in France a mill has been recently invented for separating it. Now that the farinaceous matter in cobs is nutritious, there is no doubt; but whether the great amount of hard, woody, innutritious matter they contain may not in some cases injure the animal as much as the farina benefits, is more than we know. Probably this may depend on how the animal is fed otherwise. If fed on very concentrated food, the woody matter, we should think, might be beneficial rather than otherwise; but if fed on coarse

dry food, it would seem as if to stuff him with cob meal would only make bad worse.—*The Farmer—Prof. Nash.*

## TWELFTH LEGISLATIVE AGRICULTURAL MEETING.

*Reported for the New England Farmer,*
BY WILLIAM W. HILL.

The *twelfth* and concluding meeting of the series was held on Tuesday evening.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. FLINT, Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, who made some interesting remarks appropriate to the closing meeting. He felt that the discussions during the meetings just closing had been of an unusually practical and useful character, and that they had personally benefited all who had listened to them; while the reports which had been published had been read and copied throughout the length and breadth of the land. The subject for this evening's discussion, *The Economy of Agriculture*, was one which embraced all the practical details of farming, and not only those, but the broader question of the duty of the State to promote the interests of agriculture. He concluded by announcing His Excellency Governor GARDNER as the Chairman for the evening.

The Governor, on taking the chair, expressed his interest in the cause of agriculture, and his especial approval of the objects for which these meetings have been held. He did not doubt but that they had been of great advantage to those who had attended them. Unquestionably, experimental knowledge is the most valuable, but these meetings, like the libraries of books which we prize so much, compress into a small compass the knowledge and experience of a great many intelligent minds, for the benefit *and instruction of all*. The Governor remarked that it was his good fortune to be born upon a farm, and he had always cherished a love for agricultural pursuits. Indeed, that very morning, and *early* too, he had left his home in the city to visit his farm, and he hoped to have the pleasure in a few months of eating some green peas raised from seed which he had that very morning planted with his own hand. He had eaten fruit of his own production every month in the year. Referring to the economy of agriculture, he remarked that a few days ago he had the pleasure of visiting the State Farm at Westboro', and of forming there the acquaintance of many members of the Board of Agriculture. He had previously read a good deal in regard to the farm, but had formed the opinion that the experiment of a State farm was rather visionary, and would prove only a waste of money. What he saw, and the explanations given him in regard to the experiments carried on by the Board, however, modified his former belief, and he was now of the opinion that the farm would be of great benefit to the farmers of the commonwealth,—much greater than the appropriations which have or are likely to be made to it by the State. In his opinion, the State should take a deep interest in the obtaining and diffusion of agricultural knowledge among the people, and he could conceive of no reason why Massachusetts should not be able to sustain her entire population, even though it should hereafter reach five millions, with the productions of her own soil alone.

Mr. PROCTOR, of Danvers, followed, at the call of the Governor, and urged the justness of the farmer's claims to aid from the State. He believed that the bounty extended by the State to the county agricultural societies, had been a great help to the agriculture of the State, and that the State farm at Westboro' would be of very essential service to the people of the Commonwealth. It is only by means of such institutions that we can learn the economy of agriculture. State farms should be established in all the counties in the State, to be placed under the control of the county societies, making annual reports to the Secretary of the Agricultural Bureau. It might be stipulated that each county should raise a sum equal to that donated by the State. He doubted whether the present system of dispensing the bounty of the State by means of premiums, was a judicious one. The same sums expended on experimental farms, whence valuable reports in regard to modes of cultivation, course of crops, application of manures, the breeding and management of cattle, &c., would be derived, would prove far more beneficial than the ephemeral cattle shows now in vogue, which make no lasting impression.

Mr. WATERS, of Beverly, spoke briefly of the importance of experiments in agriculture, and took occasion to allude to the great attention paid to raising onions in Essex county.

Mr. FISKE, of Framingham, referred to the remark often made to him by farmers, "Only give me a plenty of manure, and I don't care any thing about your *Boston Cultivator*, your *New England Farmer*, or your *Ploughman*. If I could only get manure, I could get crops fast enough." Many farmers who talk thus, could double or treble their manures if they would only make the most of their resources—bogs, sinks, urine, ashes, &c. He had raised forty to fifty bushels of corn to the acre, with a manure made up of meadow mud, sifted fine, ashes and urine from horse and cow, putting a handful on each hill after planting the corn, which was put into the ground without manuring. The economy of manure is the great point in farming. The wash of one sink will raise half an acre of corn.

Mr. PROCTOR, of Danvers, remarked that a farmer in his county cleared $400 from an acre of onions the last season, and that was only a sample of what is done in Essex county. The great secret of their success lies in the preparation and adaptation of manures, and in keeping the soil free from weeds. By attention to securing the best plants for seed, the size and quality has been greatly improved, and $2 and $3 a pound is paid for seed coming from Essex county.

Mr. FRENCH, of Braintree, illustrated the great want of information upon the various matters connected with farming—as location of buildings, the preservation and application of manures, the feeding of cattle, and the selection of stock—and argued that, from the complicated nature of these questions, private individuals were not competent to elucidate them. The matter should be undertaken by the State, through the agency of experimental farms. While speaking of stock, the speaker remarked that an English gentleman had long advocated "box-feeding" in fattening stock, and his views, it is believed, will triumph in England. He did not exactly understand what was meant by "box-feeding," but believed that it consisted in enclosing the animal in a stall or pen, and keeping it there on a dry floor until fattened. The English butchers invariably offer an advance for such beef, without knowing how it is raised. The speaker questioned the utility of littering the floor for cattle, having discarded the practice the past year, without noticing any detriment to the cattle in consequence. He also related the case of a Maryland farmer, who, in planting his hot, sandy soil with corn, put his manure on the top of the hill, believing that it was the true way, in which he was sustained by a farmer in the Connecticut valley. It was a new idea, and he intended to try it on a small scale, and would recommend others to do so.

Mr. SHELDON, of Wilmington, followed, and gave it as his opinion that where litter could be had cheap, bedding cattle should be kept up. He thought it made a material difference with oxen. It is economy to supply cows with water about milk warm in winter; they will give ten per cent. more milk.

Mr. DODGE, of Sutton, forcibly argued the duty of the State to furnish pattern farms, for the benefit of the farmers of the Commonwealth.

Mr. HALL, of Bradford, illustrated the benefits derived from study, and a perusal of the agricultural newspapers, by those who were wise enough to make use of them.

Mr. BUCKMINSTER, of the *Ploughman*, remarked that there were but two ways of doing a thing—the right and the wrong—and if we could induce the farmers to give up their stand-still notions, and try the various methods of cultivation, we should soon arrive at the economy of agriculture, and, by making it more profitable, our young men would be retained upon the farm.

On motion of Mr. HALL, the thanks of the meeting were presented to Joseph Bird, Esq., of Watertown, for his interesting lecture, last week, on an improved fire system.

The meeting then adjourned *sine die*.

---

*For the New England Farmer.*

## SUPERPHOSPHATE OF LIME—THE BISON.

MR. EDITOR:—Will you be so good as to give us some information in regard to the Superphosphate of Lime, an article of which we hear much, and know but little. What does it cost? (*a.*) How should it be applied to corn and potato crops? What sort of packages is it put up in? and what is its weight per bushel? (*b.*) We wish to try it, as we have utterly failed with guano, which, mixed with an equal quantity of plaster, we have applied, as a top-dressing, to portions of our wheat, oat and grass fields, and planted under the hills of corn, without being able, *at any time*, to perceive any difference between the parts so treated and the rest of the fields. We do not know of a single instance in which it has been applied, in this vicinity, in which the cost of the article and the labor of applying it was not a total loss.

Can you tell whether any attempt has ever been made to domesticate the Bison or American Buffalo? Ought that "Native American" race to be allowed to become extinct? Is there no ascertained way of perpetuating it *profitably*? (*c.*)

*Rutland, Vt.* READERS.

---

REMARKS.—(*a.*) $45,00 a ton. Manure the land liberally, and apply a gill of the superphosphate to the hill; this will give the young plants a vigorous start before the roots spread themselves to receive the benefit of the manure.

(*b.*) It is put up in bags of about 150 pounds each, and probably weighs about 60 pounds to the bushel. Superphosphate of lime is manufactured as follows: When burned bones are digested with sulphuric acid diluted with three times its bulk of water, gypsum (sulphate of lime) is produced, and falls to the bottom of the solution, while the phosphoric acid, and a portion of the lime remain in the sour liquid above it. When this liquid is boiled down or evaporated to dryness, it leaves a white powder, which is known by the name of acid or superphosphate of lime. The sulphuric acid is made by burning the common yellow sulphur in large leaden chambers. One pound of sulphur produces about three pounds of the strongest sulphuric acid. It consists of sulphur and oxygen only—combined with a little water. Sulphuric acid is another name for oil of vitriol.

(*c.*) The bison, or buffalo, has been domesticated, but no good properties were found which the ox does not possess.

*For the New England Farmer.*

## TRANSPLANTING EVERGREENS.

Mr. Editor:—I have often read in your paper the importance of planting evergreens for ornament and shade, and I know of nothing more beautiful in winter, when the fields and hills seem bound in ice and snow, than the drooping spruce, the lofty pine and graceful hemlock. Their ever deep, rich green, lends cheerfulness to the dreary winter, and makes a home, be it ever so humble, look pleasant and comfortable. I have seen rules in yours and in other papers, in regard to transplanting them, and I venture to say that if any of your readers have followed them, that not one tree in ten has survived the scorching sun of midsummer. (*a.*)

A writer in a late number of the *Country Gentleman* gives these rules, which I will give for the benefit of your readers, for I think they are good as far as they go. First, do not get trees that are too large. Second, be sure and get trees that have been exposed to the sun. Third, in taking up, do not mangle the roots. Fourth, do not prune too much. Fifth, be sure not to let the roots dry before they are placed in the ground. To which I would add, as the great secret of success, do not transplant them in the fall or early in the spring, but when they are in a growing state, and have made one inch growth; with these rules strictly observed, fail is impossible. I attribute the ill-success of so many in transplanting the evergreens, particularly the hemlock, more from want of knowledge as to the proper time of planting, than to all other causes.

*Salem*, 1855. C. A. S.

Remarks.—Hundreds, thousands of evergreen trees have been planted by rules we have given, and have flourished finely—they are rules common to all who understand the matter. In one instance several hundred evergreens were set by the same person, by our rules, and *not one in a hundred* died. One of the rules you give, is "not to prune too much." We should consider the case very rare where a young evergreen would need *any* pruning. We hope more attention will be paid to transplanting trees which add so much to the beauty of our homesteads.

*For the New England Farmer.*

## PROFITABLE CULTURE.

An industrious laborer, who cultivates with his own hands his own lands, has just informed me that he sold 125 barrels of onions, at $4,25 per barrel, delivered at his own cellar. These onions grew on about two-thirds of an acre of ground.

| | |
|---|---|
| Amount of sale | $531,25 |
| Deduct cost of culture, &c | 131,25 |
| Nett profit | $400,00 |

Pretty well for a small concern. J. W. P.

*March* 23, 1855.

## HE NEVER TOLD A LIE.

Once there was a little boy,
With curly hair and pleasant eye,
A boy who always spoke the truth,
And never, never told a lie.

And when he trotted off to school,
The children all about would cry,
There goes the curly-headed boy,
The boy who never tells a lie.

And every body loved him so,
Because he always told the truth,
That every day, as he grew up,
'Twas said, "There goes the honest youth!"

And when the people that stood near,
Would turn to ask the reason why,
The answer would be always this—
Because he never tells a lie.

*For the New England Farmer.*

## ABOUT TURKEYS.

Mr. Editor:—I was quite glad to see your remarks two or three weeks since on raising turkeys—and am more than half inclined to give you a bit of my experience in that business, with a few observations. Several years ago, I purchased two turkeys thinking I would try my "luck," as the saying is, and see what I could do with them. Well, the first year they hatched out about thirty-two young. I shut them up in the barn, and fed on dough and cheese-curd. I soon found that this did not agree with them, as they began to grow sick and die off. On pleasant days I let them run out in the warmest part of the day, but they did not improve much. I then made a large and roomy coop, and kept them in a while, but they did not seem to thrive then; and after "bothering and fussing" a good deal with them, and losing a good many, I concluded to let them go and take their chance, and I did. They soon began to mend and to grow finely. I lost two or three more in the course of the season. In the fall I had about twenty good fat turkeys for the market, which averaged me nearly a dollar apiece. I have kept two over every year since; I let them choose their nests where they please, and bring their young according to their own fashion, giving myself but very little trouble about them not even feeding them. I think they succeed much better to be let alone; I have usually had about twenty turkeys every fall. About a fortnight before I want to kill them, I shut them up and keep corn, oats, lime-water, &c., by them, and let them help themselves. Of course they come out "fat and sleek." I have them weigh from six to eighteen pounds apiece. They average me about one dollar each. Now I cannot tell you just how much profit I make, but I think I can raise twenty dollars' worth of turkeys cheaper than I can that amount of pork. The only expense to me is in feeding to fatten, and in keeping the breeders over; they will take care of themselves, as soon as warm weather comes, till cold weather comes again. It is natural for them to roam about, and they can generally find something to suit their taste in the numerous bugs, worms, &c., that infest every nook and corner of our farms; and for two or three years past, they have revelled in grasshoppers. There is nothing on which they thrive so well. When they have

been out grasshoppering awhile, they will not touch corn if thrown to them. I think it worth a good deal to a farm when grasshoppers are thick, to have a flock of turkeys to thin them out. I think it would pay to keep them, even if we did not get their good "fat haunches" to eat. Many times have I seen a flock of turkeys march over a field thick with grasshoppers, with almost the regularity of soldiers in file, and then back again—not in the same track, but beside the first—thus culling the field with the regularity of a mower. It is curious and interesting to observe their operations. Isn't it a sight that will set an epicure's stomach into peculiar gastronomic *twitterations*, to see a flock of large, fat and sleek turkyes perched upon the wall, or strutting round making observations,—ever and anon making the air vocal with toot-toot-toot—gobble-gobble-gobble.

Yours, J. T. W.

*Marlboro', N. H., March* 20, 1855.

---

*For the New England Farmer.*

## HOME-MADE GUANO.

Mr. Editor:—On page 253 of the monthly *Farmer*, for 1854, may be found an inquiry from me, and your answer, concerning the mode of preparing and using the manure of that much neglected portion of farm stock, viz., the hens. I saved and used a small quantity, applying it to corn, potatoes, peas and vines, with satisfactory results.

It was prepared with muck, dug the autumn previous, half and half, and put in direct contact with the seed, vines excepted. On corn I found it, applied at the rate of a large handful to a hill, to be two-thirds equal to a shovel full of yard manure. For potatoes I think it good, though not near so valuable as for corn. It gave mine an early and vigorous start, but the drought affected them more, on account of their being more forward than the other crops, they all being late planted. For peas I consider it a valuable manure. It gave them an early and vigorous start, and is, in my opinion, manure enough for them, applied at the rate of a bushel to a double row of ten rods long. On vines I consider it useful, but it ought to be well covered with earth before dropping the seeds. I did not cover mine at first, and they came up very poorly. I then planted over again, mixing the soil and manure intimately, and they came up well.

Thus you have the results of one year's trial with this available source of *home-made* guano. More experiments may confirm or change the above opinions. I do not claim any thing reliable for them, further than that it is a *valuable* manure, and ought to be improved by all who keep fowls, even in small numbers.

The coming season I intend to mix as before, and add one bushel of ashes (dry) just before using, and cover well with loam. The manure ought to be thoroughly pulverized before mixing with the ashes. The muck ought to be strown under the roosts, a little at a time, and as often as once a week. A quantity of plaster would not be lost if strown under the roosts weekly. If others have tried the "home-made guano," shall we not hear from them? S. Tenney.

*West Poland, Me., March*, 1855.

## THE WAY WEEDS MULTIPLY.

The *Gardener's Chronicle* enters into a calculation to show the rates at which weeds multiply:

"The common groundsel ripens about 52 seeds in each head of flowers; and produces about 40 heads or 2080 seeds. The dandelion ripens about 135 seeds in a head, of which it produces about 2740 seeds. The sow-thistle ripens about 280 seeds in each head, and produces about 38, thus yielding 11,040 seeds per plant. The annual spurges form about 180 seed-vessels, each containing three seeds, and therefore produce 540 seeds per plant. These are, as we have said, very low averages.

Now according to this calculation—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 Groundsel, | 2,080 | 16,400 plants. |
| 1 Dandelion, | 2,740 | |
| 1 Sow-thistle, | 11,040 | |
| 1 Spurge, | 540 | |

which will cover just about three acres and a half of land, at three feet apart. To hoe land costs, we will say, about 6s* per acre, so that allowing four such weeds to produce their seed may involve an expense of a guinea. In other words, a man throws away 5s. 3d. as often as he neglects to bend his back to pull up a young weed, before it begins to fulfil the first law of nature. We know that some well-fed folks object to all inflection or deflection of the vertebral column—they are generally fond of hard words—but then they also object to its being considered in their wages, which is not exactly fair.

Let us look at the foregoing data in another point of view. Every dandelion left to flourish unchecked may plant an acre of ground 4 feet apart; every sow-thistle may do the same two feet apart; every groundsel five feet apart, allowing for waste. Supposing a garden to consist of two acres, 16 dandelions, or four sow-thistles, or 21 groundsels, or 80 spurges, will cover it with a crop a foot apart. Taking this calculation in their hand, we recommend everybody afflicted with weeds, or with a gardener whose vertebral column will not bend, as aforesaid, to count the dandelions, groundsels, sow-thistles and spurges upon the first square rod of ground they can measure off.

Seriously, this forgetfulness of the consequences of allowing weeds to seed is a fault of the first magnitude; the more inexcusable, because no skill is required to remedy it; nothing whatever, except industry and foresight is demanded.

* The shilling spoken of is about 25 cents.

---

Downfall of a Composite House.—Last fall a Mr. Cozzens, of Brookline, commenced a composite house of cobble-stones and mortar, nearly finishing it. He postponed further work upon it, to allow time for the walls to become hard, and was intending to go to work this morning to finish it for occupancy. Last evening, as two gentlemen were examining the walls, and admiring the elegance of the structure, and its cheapness and durability, the walls suddenly crumbled, and the whole building came down so rapidly that they escaped with difficulty from being buried in the ruins. It appears that the recent warm weather had driven the frost from the walls, and that being the only cohesive power in the com-

position, down they came, in a manner that has somewhat cooled the ardor of persons afflicted with the "Cobble-Stone Fever."—*Herald, 9th.*

## EXTRACTS AND REPLIES.

### HOW TO DESTROY CATERPILLARS.

MR. EDITOR:—Take strong soap suds—that in which clothes have been washed will answer—provided it is strong—and a pole long enough to reach the tops of the trees, and tie a bag of woollen rags on the end of it; then dip the rags in the suds, and hold directly over where the young worm has just made its appearance and begun to spin its web; as soon as the suds touches them, they will die instantly. This remedy is equally effectual for currant and gooseberry bushes and other shrubbery infested with these pests.

*Middletown, Vt.*, 1855. J. H. ROBERTS.

### A FINE HOG.

MR. EDITOR.—Being a reader of your excellent paper, and noticing statements of your correspondents relative to large cattle and large hogs, I send you the age and weight of a hog which we slaughtered last week. Age 21 months 22 days; weight of round hog after hanging eight and forty hours, 754 lbs.; rough fat, 35 lbs.; estimating the shrinkage at 11 lbs. for the time of hanging, (it being very cold) would make the whole weight 800, being a gain of 1 7-33 lbs. a day. If any one beats this, we will try again. Breed, half-blood Suffolk. S. & R. FARNSWORTH.

*Lyme, N. H., March* 7, 1855.

### WASHINGTON ROYAL APPLE.

MR. EDITOR:—I send you a specimen of apples that I have raised six years. I cut the scions from a seedling tree on the farm of Mr. Joseph P. Hayward, in Sterling. He says he opened a barrel of this kind of apples on the first of June, and they were as fresh and fair as they were when they were put up, and there was not more than one peck of defective ones in the barrel.

I find the trees to be very prolific bearers. The fruit is in eating from October, and it has been submitted to many of the best judges of fruit, and they pronounce it one of the best kind of apples that has been offered to the public.

I have given it the name of Washington Royal.

EPHRAIM ROBBINS.

*Leominster, March* 19, 1855.

REMARKS.—We have just eaten one of the apples alluded to above, and pronounce it most excellent. They not only taste well, but are "goodly to behold." Above medium size, flattish-round; yellowish-green, with numerous small gray dots, and a clear red in the sun. Calyx in a broad basin, stem slender, and half an inch long. It is a valuable variety. See advertisement.

### OSIERS.

What is the weight of the crop of osiers the first, second and third year from planting? I am about planting a few acres and wish for all the information possible before I am fairly in the season for it. Will some one please reply who has the means of knowing? G. F. NUTTING.

### CARROTS AND WATERMELONS.

What is the best time to sow carrot seed, and the best kind to sow? (*a.*)

I should like to know how the ground should be prepared so as to yield the greatest amount at the least expense. (*b.*)

I wish to know how to raise watermelons by any way to secure a good crop without fail. (*c.*)

I wish to inquire if any of your subscribers have succeeded in raising pears from scions set on the mountain ash or thorn stocks. If so how long-lived were they? (*d.*)

OBSERVER ON THE FARM.

*Oakham, March* 19, 1855.

REMARKS.—(*a.*) Sow carrot seed as early in April as the ground is warm and mellow. They will do well sown in May if the seed comes up promptly. The orange carrot is generally cultivated; the white carrot brings heavy crops, but does not seem to be a favorite yet. Then there is the long red and the Altringham. The latter we have raised, but found no qualities to recommend it more than are found in the orange carrot.

(*b.*) To secure a good crop of roots of any kind, the soil should be deep and fine. Sixteen inches deep, will be found very favorable. Then manure it well, and tend thoroughly, and you will produce a crop in the *cheapest* manner.

(*c.*) Watermelons love a high and dry soil; we have known them to grow luxuriantly on a sand-bed where weeds of all sorts had refused to vegetate. Manure with old compost in the hill. The product can be wonderfully increased by placing a shovel-full of good loam over the places where the vine branches and pressing it down—new roots will start out and impart great vigor to the whole.

(*d.*) Pear trees will grow on the mountain-ash or thorn, but we think it better to engraft on the quince for the earliest supply, adding annually a tree or two on its own roots.

### RYE GRASS AND LUCERNE.

MR. BROWN:—Will you be kind enough to publish in the next number of the *N. E. Farmer*, the qualities advantages and difference between rye grass and lucerne; their uses, and best mode of cultivation, and the quantity of seed to an acre. S. H. COLLINS.

*Locust Lawn, New Albany, Ind.*

REMARKS.—Lucerne is an artificial grass, stems erect or somewhat reclining, and about two feet high. The leaves are oblong, inclining to wedge-shaped, more or less acute, sharply serrated towards the end, clothed with close, silky hair on both sides. The flowers are in clusters, many, and bluish-purple. It is best adapted to a good, dry, warm soil, and will not flourish well on heavy wet soils. It is a deep-rooted plant, and requires a deep soil. It should be sown just as soon as the ground can be made ready, and ought to be without a crop of grain, in drills, 12 to 16

inches apart, and with from 10 to 16 pounds of seed per acre. By careful weeding and hoeing, the crop may be cut three or four times annually, for a period of eight or ten years—the first cutting occurring in April. A gentleman in Maine tried it several years since, and says he sowed it the last week in May; the last week in July it was 18 inches high on an average, and much of it had blossomed. Hogs and milch cows ate it voraciously. In *four* weeks from the time it was cut a second time,—and on the first of November it had grown to nearly the same height as before, and was cut a third time—the crop being heavier than either of the preceding. A piece of common red clover (very flourishing) immediately adjoining the same, did not yield nearly half as much, in proportion, as the lucerne. It is undoubtedly a capital plant for soiling, and will prove profitable on favorable soils. It is not so good for hay as for green fodder, especially if allowed to blossom, the stems becoming dry and hard.

Of the rye-grass there are numerous varieties, but the perennial rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*) is the only one not set down in an English list of the most useful species and varieties of the grasses. Buel set it down as a grass generally esteemed. It is said that it is one of those plants which impoverish the soil to a high degree. It produces an abundance of seed, and produces in its first year of growth a good supply of herbage, which is much liked by cattle. There is, however, much difference of opinion respecting the merits and comparative value of rye-grass. One peck of rye-grass seed, with 14 pounds of clover, per acre, is generally considered sufficient for sowing pastures.

—

### HOW TO APPLY MANURE.

MR. EDITOR:—I have one-half of an acre of ground that was broken up last fall; it consists of a sandy loam. I wish to cultivate upon it this season, Chenango potatoes, fodder corn, crookneck squashes and beans, and wish to know how to use my manure that I get from one horse and cow? Shall I plant in the hill, or otherwise? Last year I planted a piece similar to this with the same materials, and I did not get my seed back again; I had healthy vines, but nothing underneath them.

Which corn is best for fodder?

Yours with respect,

*Malden*, 1855. E. W. B.

—

### A WORD ON CORN PLANTERS.

In a late number of the *Farmer* I find pictured in the hands of an intelligent-looking man, one of the *patent hand corn-planters*. He is evidently making his first experiment, for I see a smile on his face, which, perhaps, *may* not appear at harvesting. One word about these planters. We are not informed how near together the kernels must be in order to drop into the space made for them. But in the manufacturers' advertisement we are informed that "The closeness of the stalks in the hill is necessary for close cultivation."

How often we have been told in agricultural papers, that the seed should be spread at least four inches in the hills, that no stalks should be left within three or four inches of another. We have been told, and I *partly* believe it, that the plants choke and crowd each other and make a more stunted growth than they otherwise would. The wind is much more likely to blow it down, and when it is harvested, extra labor will be found to result from this "closeness of the stalks in the hills."

I infer from the planter above referred to, that it is nearly akin to one patented by Charles Dana, Esq., West Lebanon, N. H., and which is now being sold through this State by interested agents.

If we can have a corn-planter that will give us the proper space between the plants, and yet have them spread, we may practice as "close cultivation" as possible, and yet save the injurious results of "closeness."

This is already gained in the horse-planter by Woodford, of Haverhill, N. H., whose machine works with a facility and accuracy excelled by no machine yet invented for the purpose. The corn is carefully dropped in close furrows in the centre of a space 15 inches wide, made perfectly smooth, and all sods or loose stones removed by the machine. On the seed, a quantity of ashes, plaster, or any concentrated fertilizer is dropped, and the whole thoroughly covered.

By this method of planting 8 to 10 acres may be planted in a day, and yet the seed sufficiently spread. The cultivator may be run as near the plants as the operator may wish.

I will add further, that I have an improvement on the above planter, by which the operator may plant corn and beans alternately, and without mixing the two, putting the ashes on the corn and not on the beans, or the plaster on corn and beans both.

For the benefit of those who are in doubt about the operation of the various planters in the market, I write hoping to draw remarks from others concerning "closeness in the hills," and such ideas as may be connected therewith. G. F. N.

—

### CHEAP FENCE.

In reply to inquiries concerning the Green fence mentioned in the *Farmer* of April, 1854, I can only say that the proportion is about 16 oz. of blue vitriol to 4½ or 5 gallons of water. The time required, and the amount of vitriol absorbed by the process, will depend upon the degree of heat applied, and the kind of wood used for stakes. Green timber will kyanize much quicker, and should soak two weeks in the summer heat, or in a hot bath two or three days. The vitriol should be added to keep the liquor of proper strength, and must be left to the operator to judge for himself by appearance.

Any one passing through Windsor, Vt., will notice this fence in abundance and perfection.

— G. F. N.

### GRAPES.

The *Concord*, a large, early, pleasant grape has just been introduced in the vicinity of Boston, and promises to be an acquisition, especially where the Catawba and Isabella ripen with difficulty.—*Gardener's Companion.*

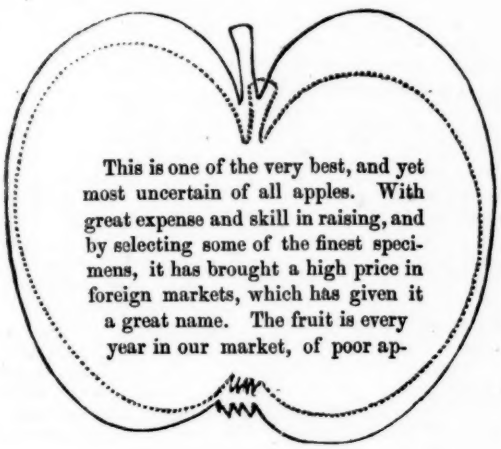
## PLOWING SANDY SOILS.

Spring plowing for sandy soils is preferable to fall plowing: for although the plowing of clay soils, including ridging and back furrowing, may be done profitably in the fall, the same practice is not advisable with those of a freer kind. The freezings and thawings of winter will materially improve clayey soils, by rendering them more free from the disintegration of particles, division of masses, etc. Sandy soils, however, should be left undisturbed until spring, by which means they are less liable to be disturbed by high winds, freshets, etc.

No error is more common than to suppose that sandy or gravelly sub-soils render sub-soil plowing useless. On the contrary, the continuous descent of water from the soil will so compact both the sandy and gravelly soils, as to leave them difficult of penetration by roots, and when they are of such character as to render it injudicious to bring them to the surface by deep surface-plowing, we may at least follow in the same furrow with the lifting sub-soil plow, which does not turn the soil, but will disintegrate it to a great depth, with the expenditure of but a small amount of force. In this way sandy soils become ærated, and from the decay of roots passing deeply into them, they are gradually supplied with organic matter so as to improve their general condition. This disturbance, however, should occur in spring; thus they are less compact during the growing season, and become stiffened during winter, rendering them more practicable in their character by spring.—*Working Farmer.*

---

## THE NEWTOWN PIPPIN APPLE.


This is one of the very best, and yet most uncertain of all apples. With great expense and skill in raising, and by selecting some of the finest specimens, it has brought a high price in foreign markets, which has given it a great name. The fruit is every year in our market, of poor ap-

pearance, and selling at common prices. One Baldwin tree, of the same age, will outweigh four of them, and out-bear five or six of them, in good fair fruit. It generally fails in New England; in some favorable situations in the Middle States, and in some parts of the West, it succeeds well. It requires a warm, deep, strong, friable loam, neither wet nor dry, lime in the soil, or manure, and the highest culture.

Some pomologists reckon two kinds; others think there is but one, modified by various circumstances. The *Green* (dotted outline) is flattish-conical; stem, short, deep cavity; smooth, olive-green. The *Yellow* (the larger outline) is flattish-round, angular; stem short, rather deep cavity; rough, yellow, or greenish-yellow, brownish or red cheek. We have seen another form and color. Roundish-conical, very deep cavity; smooth, wax-like, pale yellow, bright red cheek.

The Newtown Pippin is of medial size; flesh fine, firm, crisp, juicy, of a rich, sprightly, high aromatic flavor and aroma. Remarkable for retaining its freshness to a late period. Late winter, spring, and to mid-summer. A slow, scrubby grower; moderate bearer. Fruit inclined to be defective under the best management. Origin, Newtown, Long Island.—*Cole.*

---

Water Proof.—A correspondent of the *Merchant's Magazine* gives the following receipt for the prevention of wet feet, and adds that by subjecting his boots to this treatment three pairs have lasted him six years, and are likely to last six years longer. He says:

I put a pound of tallow, and half a pound of rosin in a pot on the fire; when melted and mixed, I warm the boots and apply the hot stuff with a painter's brush until neither sole nor upper leather will suck any more. If it is desired

that the boots should immediately take polish, dissolve an ounce of wax in spirits of turpentine; to which add a teaspoonful of lampblack. A day after the boots have been treated with the tallow and rosin, rub them over with wax in turpentine, but not before the fire. Thus the exterior will have a coat of wax alone, and shine like a mirror. Tallow, or any other grease becomes rancid, and rots the stitching as well as the leather; but the rosin gives it an antiseptic quality—which preserves the whole. Boots and shoes should be so large as to admit of cork soles. Cork is so bad a conductor of heat, that with it in boots, the feet are warm on the coldest stone floor.

---

*For the New England Farmer.*

## SALT LEY.

MR. EDITOR:—Your correspondent from East Hartford, Ct., in the *N. E. Farmer* for Jan., 1855, wants information in regard to an article made by the hard soap manufacturers, and called by them in the vicinity of Boston (as well as Hartford) *salt ley*. Having used many scores of loads of that article, within the last eight years, separately as well as in connection with night soil, I am able to reply to the questions put by "J. R. S."

First, let me say, that a scientific and observing neighbor who has a few acres of meadow he wished to lay down to grass in a manner best calculated to be lasting, and also wishing to know for a certainty whether *salt ley* was as economical (at the same cost per load) as night soil, placed two heaps of loam upon the borders of his meadow, containing about five cords each, and added five loads of 80 cubic feet each of ley, to one heap, and the same of night soil to the other. After causing the same to be thrown over until well incorporated, he divided his land equally in two parts, and spread the compost, sowed his grass seed, harrowed, and then rolled the surface with a heavy roller The first year the result was decidedly in favor of the night soil; the second they stood side by side; the third, the difference in favor of the *ley* was more than equal to what it lacked the first, while its effect was very apparent long after the night soil had spent itself. This experiment as well as some of my own of a similar character, satisfied me that *ley* is very permanent and valuable as a fertilizer, when properly incorporated with meadow muck for upland. When it is spread upon grass land, it is sure to bring in a large amount of honey-suckle or white clover, which is the same thing.

If used for *corn* it should be spread and plowed in, as it will be apt to kill the corn if allowed to come in contact with it. I believe it superior to any other manure for other potatoes, as it keeps the worms from troubling them. It may be used for any purpose that any manure is. It is the best for sandy land as it holds the moisture and prevents in part the consequences of a drought. One cord of meadow muck, if fine, is sufficient to absorb one load of 90 cubic feet. And if the ley is good (for some is nearly worthless, being made of lime and soda instead of ashes) is equal to a cord of *stable manure*. Pile up the muck and run the ley into the basin on the top, and be careful that it don't work out at the sides and waste, as it is more likely to than night soil or any other liquid manure. It should be thrown over and well incorporated, as it will be apt to work through the loam or muck, and waste if that is not attended to soon. R. W. TURNER.

*Newton Centre, Jan.* 16, 1855.

---

## ROOT CROPS.

Much of the success of root crops depends upon their early treatment. Those that germinate slowly, such as the carrot, should have the seed swollen, by burying it in the soil for a few days encased in a bag before sowing, and when being sown, small quantities of radish seed should be mixed with it. The radish seed will mark the rows at an early date, so as to enable proper tools to be passed between, and remove the weeds even before the carrots shall appear above the surface of the ground.

All light scaly seeds should be planted within half an inch or less of the surface, and if not shaded by the radish leaf will bake from the sun's heat, and refuse to germinate, unless previously swollen.

The early attention by disturbance of the soil for carrots, parsnips, beets, &c., is positively necessary to insure success. Careless culture in the early part of the season will materially injure the crop.

We should not wait for weeds to appear before disturbing the soil, but by frequent stirring we may prevent their growth altogether until the roots shall have fairly started, and are in full possession; then an occasional stirring by the Horse Hoe or any of those tools lately introduced by Ruggles, Nourse, Mason and others for cleaning the surface of soils, so that the entire strength of the soil and all the atmospheric advantages may be applied to the crop.

We raised last year, by such treatment, 1500 bushels of parsnips, and nearly or quite a thousand bushels of carrots per acre. When guano or the phosphates are used, the application should be in small doses, and at each disturbance of the soil. The results will be much greater than when all are placed in the soil before the planting of the seed; for in its slow downward travel by solution when applied after the roots are partially grown, the manure may come in contact with the young spongioles ready to receive it. If the manures are all applied in the rows instead of between the rows, the roots become hairy and roughened, but when more generally disseminated through the soil they become evenly divided by moisture before reaching the roots. The great increase in demand for root crops will fully warrant their increased culture.—*Working Farmer.*

---

THE SEASON.—A correspondent writing from Kennebunk, Me., April 8, says—"the sledding has been very good here until to-day." In the neighborhood of Boston the frost is not yet out,—manure heaps carried out last fall, are still frozen; postholes cannot be dug, or very little spring work done. It was refreshing this morning to see the first team and plow in motion. The *Weston* people deserve the premium. From Randolph, Vt., under date of April 2, we learn that the snow was then four feet deep, great drifts still remain-

ing, and no sugar had been made. From Dorchester, N. H., the account is that the snow in the woods on the first of April was six feet deep in many places.

*For the New England Farmer.*

## THE NORTHERN SPY APPLE.

Mr. Farmer :—This new variety, which has attracted so much attention in Western New York, is little known in New England. No apple brought into notice has elicited so many and different opinions of its merits. What I said of it in a report to the American Pomological Society, re-printed in your paper, was intended as a caution to those planting or grafting extensively, rather than to deter any one from giving it a fair trial.

One reason why it has been so poor a bearer is, it has been extensively propagated from nursery scions. In 1846, I paid three dollars to a Rochester nurseryman for four dozen scions, which had been cut from small nursery trees; these were grafted on old bearing trees. Scions cut from them two years after, and grafted on bearing trees, first produced fruit.

Another reason why it is not an early bearer, is its upright growth. A person visiting an orchard of one thousand trees, containing one hundred varieties, and told there is one tree only of the Northern Spy, may easily select it. This may be partially remedied. I bent some of the most vigorous limbs on my trees and tied them down, when three years grafted, (in October,) and the next season they were filled with fruit buds—two years before a blossom appeared on any other.

It is a rapid grower, hardy, and requires high culture, with plenty of lime or ashes, and more thinning of its branches and small limbs than any other sort. In quality it is decidedly the *best*, taking the same rank in March, April and May, or perhaps June, that the *Gravenstein* does in October and November. One *bushel* will, in any market, when known to be in good condition, (not bruised by transportation,) sell for more than one *barrel* of any other sort grown in New England.

Any man having a small space to spare for a few trees, provided he likes an apple of fine texture, tender, of high flavor, unshrivelled, and as fresh in April or May as any other in October, will be satisfied if he gets but a small quantity for a few years. It is deserving a general trial, at least a few trees in every orchard. Should it prove a good bearer, (and it may when propagated by scions from bearing trees,) it must be a great acquisition to our *very small* list of *good* late-keeping apples, and *may* be for New England what the Newtown Pippin is for New Jersey.

*Burlington, Vt., April.* C. Goodrich.

Big Carrots.—Thomas Gordon, Esq., of Biddeford, Me., has sent us two carrots, one of which weighs *four pounds and three-quarters*, after having lost a goodly nip of its nether end. It probably weighed six pounds when taken from the ground. California will please stand back a little.

## BIRDS.

Birds, says M. Toussenel, live more in a given time than any other creatures. For, to live, is not only to live; it is also to move, act, and travel. The hours of the swift, which in sixty minutes can reach the distance of eighty leagues, are longer than the hours of the tortoise, because they are better occupied, and contain a greater number of events. Men of the present day, who can go from Europe to America in little more than a week, live four times as much as men of the last century, who took a month to make the passage. People who are now fifty years of age have still a longer time before them than Michael Angelo and Voltaire had at that moment when they were laid in the cradle. Independently of birds thus enjoying more of life than all other beings in the same given number of years, time seems to glide over them without leaving a trace of its effects; or rather, time only improves them, reviving their colors and strengthening their voices. Age increases the beauty of birds, while in men it brings on ugliness.

A bird is a model ship constructed by the hand of God, in which the conditions of swiftness, manageability, and lightness, are absolutely and necessarily the same as in vessels built by the hand of man. There are not in the world two things which resemble each other more strongly, both mechanically and physically speaking, than the carcase and frame-work of a bird and a ship. The breast-bone so exactly resembles a keel, that the English language has retained the name. The wings are the oars, the tail the rudder. That original observer, Huber, the Genevese, who has carefully noticed the flight of birds of prey, has even made use of the metaphor thus suggested, to establish a characteristic distinction between rowers and sailers. The rowers are the falcons, who have the first or second wing-feather the longest, and who are able by means of this powerful oar to dart right into the wind's eye. The mere sailers are the eagles, the vultures, and the buzzards, whose more rounded wings resemble sails. The rowing bird is to the sailing bird what the steamer, that laughs at adverse winds, is to the schooner, which cannot advance against them.

The bones of high flyers, as well as their feathers, are tubes filled with air, communicating with a pulmonary reservoir of prodigious capacity. This reservior is also closely connected with the air-cells which lie between the interior muscles, and which are so many swimming-bladders, by aid of which the bird is able to inflate its volume, and diminish its specific gravity in proportion. In birds that are laden with a heavy burthen of head, Nature has interposed so decided a gap between skin and flesh, that there results an almost complete detachment of the skin. Consequently, they can be stripped of their coating just as easily as a rabbit can. In man and other mammifers, the blood, in the act of breathing, advances ready to meet the air; in birds, air enters to find the blood, and comes in contact with it everywhere. Hence an ubiquity of respiration and a rapidity of hæmatosis, which explains the untirability of the wings of birds. The muscles do not get fatigued, because they receive new vigor every second from the influence of the ever revived blood. A stag or a hare drops at last,

when hunted, because its lungs, rather than its legs, are tired.

Between the different members of a bird's body there exists a sort equilibrium or balance, which prevents any one organ from obtaining undue development without another losing in the same proportion. Thus exaggerated length of wing generally coincides with very small feet and legs. Examples: the frigate-bird, the swift, and the humming-bird. Feathered feet and legs are mostly short, as in pigeons, bantams, ptarmigan, and grouse. Nature always contrives to economise out of one part of a bird's body the material which she has too lavishly expended upon another. Good walkers are bad flyers, and good flyers are bad walkers. First-rate runners and divers are deprived of the power of rising in the air. Half blind individuals, like owls, are astonishingly quick of hearing. Creatures clad in plain costume are recompensed by the powers of song. The lark and the red-breast, victim species (both being greedily eaten in France) have the gift of poesy bestowed upon them for their future sorrows.

The most exquisite sense a bird possesses is sight. The acuteness and sensibility of the retina are in direct proportion to the rapidity of wing. The swift, according to Belon's calculation, can see a gnat distinctly at the distance of more than five hundred yards. The kite hovering in the air at a height beyond our feeble vision, perceives with ease the small dead minnow floating on the surface of the lake, and is cognizant of the imprudence of the poor little field-mouse, as it timidly ventures out of its hole. All God has done and made, He has thoroughly well done and made. If He had not exactly proportioned the visual organs of the bird of prey, or the swallow to its dashing flight, the mere extreme velocity of the bird would have only served to break its neck. Partridges constantly kill themselves against the iron wires of electric telegraphs; and nothing is more common than to find thrushes and larks with dislocated vertebræ, when they fall into the large vertical net which is used in France by twilight sportsmen.

Perhaps, after all we have said and seen, the sense of touch is the most perfect in birds, and the organs of feeling are endowed with a subtlety of perception more exquisite than even those of sight. In fact, air being the most variable and unstable of elements, birds would be endowed by nature with the gift of universal sensibility, enabling them to appreciate and foretell the slightest perturbations of the medium they inhabit. In consequence, the feathered race are armed with a nervous impressionability, which comprises the different properties of the hygrometer, the thermometer, the barometer, and the electroscope. A tempest, which takes the man of science by surprise, has, long before, given warning to the birds of the sea. The noddies, cormorants, gulls, and petrels, know twenty-four hours beforehand, by means of the magnetic telegraph which exists within them, the exact day and moment when ocean is going in one of his great rages, opening wide his green abysses, and flinging the angry foam of his waves in insult against the forehead of the cliffs. Some birds are the harbingers of wintry storms; others usher in the advent of spring. The raven and the nightingale announce the coming of the tempest by a peculiar form of bird's expression, which they both seem to have borrowed from the vocabulary of the frog—a pre-eminently nervous animal, to whom the science of galvanism is greatly indebted. The chaffinch, in unsettled weather, recommends the traveller to take his umbrella, and advises the housekeeper not to be in a hurry to hang out her linen. Certain mystic geniuses have attributed this faculty of divination possessed by birds to some special sensibility, acquainting them with the actions of the electric currents that traverse the atmosphere, and accurately informing them of their direction. Nor is there any scientific argument which can be confidently opposed to such a theory.

After the organs of sight and touch, the sense of hearing comes next in importance. The delicacy of the auditory powers of birds is sufficiently apparent from the passion for vocal music which many of them manifest. It is an universally admitted physical law that, in all animals, a close and invariable correspondence exists between the organs of voice and those of hearing. Now birds, it will be seen, are the Stentors of nature. The bull, who is an enormous quadruped, endowed with an immensely capacious chest, does not roar louder than the bittern, a moderate sized bird which frequents our ponds. In Lorraine, they style him the bœuf d'eau, or "water-bull." A crane, trumpetting two or three thousand yards above the surface of the earth, pulls your head back just as violently as a friend who asks you "How do you do?" from the balcony of a fifth-floor window; while the thundering of Mirabeau, who should venture to harangue the Parisian populace from the top of the towers of Notre Dame, would run a great risk of not being able to convey a single word to a single member of his congregation.

Ascend in the air, by means of a balloon, in company with an old Atlas lion, whose formidable roaring once struck terror throughout Algerian wilderness; and, when you have risen only half a mile, make your travelling companion give utterance to the most sonorous of his fine chest-notes. Those will spend themselves in empty space, without descending so low as the earth. But the royal kite, floating another half mile above you, will not let you lose a single inflexion of his cat-like mewing, miniatures though they be of the lion's roar. "It is probable," says Mr. Toussenel—M. Toussenel is always speaking through our humble interpretation—"that nature has expended more genius in the construction of the larynx of a wren or a nightingale, than in fabricating the ruder throats of all the quadrupeds put together."

Smell and taste are but feeble in birds; and they have no great occasion for either sense. A bird's appetite *must* be enormous, in order to supply the animal heat necessary for the maintenance of its superior nature. A bird is a locomotive of the very first rank, a high pressure engine, which burns more fuel than three or four ordinary machines. "Animals feed, man eats," says worthy Brillat Savarin. "Clever men alone know how to eat properly." This strictly true gastrosophic aphorism is more exactly applicable to birds than to quadrupeds. Birds feed to assuage their hunger and to amuse themselves, not

to indulge in epicurism. They fatten through sheer ennui, and for pastime's sake, rather than through any ambition of "cutting up fat." The task, moreover, assigned to them, is to destroy the innumerable seeds of weeds, [which they do in a larger proportion than the protected seeds of human food,] and animal and insect vermin, which would soon annihilate the labors of man, did not certain species of birds feel an incessant craving to devour them. Birds have no nose for the same reason that they have no palate. It is not necessary that creatures, destined to eat everything without making wry faces, should have posted in front of their stomach, as we have, a vigilant sentinel, who is troublesomely cautious who and what he allows to enter the fortress. All, therefore, that has been said about the fine scent of the crow and the vulture, who snuff gunpowder and corpses at incredible distances, is simply absurd. There is an excellent reason why crows should *not* smell gunpowder; namely, that gunpowder is scentless until it is burnt, (we venture to doubt this statement of fact; having a decided personal nose for the saltpetre.) If crows *could* perceive that perfume, it would attract them, instead of driving them away. Crows and vultures are carrion birds, who love, above all things, the treat of a battle.—*N. Y. Churchman's Magazine.*

## THE SWEET POTATO.

An inquiry in relation to this delicious esculent, by "G. S. P." of Bethel, Vt., reminds us that many people would find it convenient, and would be glad to cultivate a few rows, sufficient, at least, for their own table through the autumnal months. We have raised them successfully for several years. They are not quite so sweet, or so yellow, as those sent here from the South, though our crop in 1853 afforded very fine ones, both in color and flavor.

Some four or five years ago we had a correspondence with Mr. Timothy A. Bascom, of Hinsdale, N. H., on the subject of the sweet potato, who presented to us in April a box of them sound and pretty good at that time,—but not with their full flavor.

As in the common potato, there are many varieties of the sweet—the Mississippi yam is considered the best. It would be cheaper for those wishing to plant only a few, to purchase the slips, as they may always be obtained at the proper season, of Rand & Co., 110 Quincy Market. Those who desire to cultivate more extensively will find the following directions convenient. Plant the potatoes in a common hot-bed, and cover two inches deep with fine loam, and they will come up in two or three weeks, and when two and a half inches high they will do to set out. In collecting the sprouts place one hand on the potato to keep it steady, and cut out the sprout with the thumb-nail, or pull it out; the potato will continue to furnish them for three or four weeks. Half a peck of potatoes will furnish sprouts enough to bring a dozen bushels of potatoes.

It is early enough to set the plants by the first of June. Place them in drills a foot apart, a little deeper than they stood in the hot-bed, leaving the drill a trifle dishing. If the weather is dry and warm at the time of setting, water them for a few days.

The ground should be plowed or spaded a foot deep, well manured, and thoroughly pulverized. Some persons throw two furrows together, but in our hot and dry summers, we think such a practice injurious. The soil best adapted to this root is a warm, sandy loam, though it will grow on any soil that will bring a good crop of corn. The cultivation should be careful, keeping all weeds out, and the soil constantly loose. The vines run, like cucumber vines, so that the hoeing must be done early. Care should be observed not to leave the vines covered with earth, as in that case they will take root and prevent the growth of the first setting. Some persons forcibly tear up the vines where they have attached themselves to the ground, in order to throw the vigor of the runners into the main roots. The crop is fit for gathering when the tops decay.

In harvesting, great care should be observed not to bruise the potatoes by throwing them together, or in any other way, as a slight bruise will engender decay. The leaves of the vine are quite handsome, being large, smooth, and generally three-lobed.

The potato is used boiled, baked, is excellent in making bread, and makes a pie nearly or quite as good as the squash. It has a peculiar, agreeable flavor, and is called easy of digestion, is wholesome and nutritious.

The recipe for making pies of the sweet potato is as follows:—Boil soft, peel and mash them. To every quarter of a pound, put one quart of milk, three tablespoonfuls of butter, four beaten eggs, together with sugar and spices to the taste.

Mr. Bascom informed us that the sweet potato is a good crop for milch cows,—that they are very fond of them, and that he can obtain a larger amount of them than of any other potato on the same quantity of ground.

## POTATOES.

A large quantity of European potatoes were sold a few days since by auction, in New York, and at a price which would pay the foreign farmer a very large profit beyond the cost of freight, etc., and this, too, in a country where they might be produced at less than the freight paid by the foreign farmer. Every year since our childhood, we have heard farmers say that they feared potatoes would be low next year, as everybody would be raising them in consequence of the high prices; and thus far has prevented a full supply

being grown, particularly during the last few years, when the extra crop required each year for the consumption of the half million emigrants, has been a million and a half of bushels beyond the requirement of the previous year, and which, at the average crop of 100 bushels per acre, would require 15,000 acres of land for their culture. This is not only true of potatoes, but of other roots, the consumption of which is not only increased from the same cause, but from our own citizens becoming convinced that a large appropriation of vegetable diet is conducive to health. The farmers and livery-stable keepers are also feeding roots more liberally to cattle and horses, and as a consequence, carrots are now sold readily in the New York market at fifty cents per bushel; and even parsnips and ruta-baga turnips bring prices equally large, as compared with those of former years.—*Working Farmer.*

*For the New England Farmer.*

## SETTING ORCHARDS.

MR. BROWN:—Spring is at hand; and many of your readers are planning to set out fruit trees this season. How can they invest a few dollars better than to buy twenty, or fifty, or more, trees, and choose a good place to set them, and get them growing as fast as possible. What "marketing" costs less than the piles of great apples so speedily gathered from the bending trees? Folks talk of potatoes being a profitable crop,—they are, but apples are more profitable. There is little danger of there being a glut in the market for apples. The demand more than keeps pace with the supply. Better apples are called for in unlimited quantities. Some that have raised apples in a slovenly manner, have been discouraged by the prices obtained. They have almost shovelled them into dirty, mean barrels, and because they have had to sell them to poor customers at a low figure,—0, apples are not worth raising. The better way is, to be liberal with the trees. Give them something to live upon. Don't be afraid to in plow manure about them. It is better than to pile up a lot by the trunk to dry up and feed insects. If you think to raise a good crop of grass under your trees, you will injure the fruit very seriously. Tree roots want a mellow soil *to themselves*, and no obstruction from grass.

The easiest way to manage an orchard is to have it *the cultivated field*—the place to raise the potatoes and corn and vines. It should be on good land, accessible from the house readily, not hilly, and so situated that it might be easily overlooked. If trees are set on good land, they will make a handsome growth without having so much good earth carted about them. An orchard near at hand will be better protected from vagrant animals,—four-legged and two-legged. If you are to be robbed, it is desirable to see how it is done!

Every year thousands of trees are thrown away by being stuck down in grass land. When are people *all* to know, that such an expenditure is the sheerest folly? Suppose the trees are dug around. Soon the grass gets up again;—it is difficult to get around to the trees, and they come to the general stand-still. But suppose they do just live, and perhaps, grow an inch or two? A tree had better be dead than drag out a sickly existence. You want new shoots of the real thrifty color to burst out with unmistakable energy.

I wish, Mr. Brown, that all your readers could see my neighbor Goodman's orchard in Autumn; trees all in straight, handsome rows; thrifty crops growing among them,—and a team going to market with the abundance which seems to have no end. W. D. B.

*Concord, Mass., March* 23, 1855.

## STAY WHERE YOU ARE.

In the West we have met with persons possessed of a *mania* for clearing land. As long as their farms afford unlimited opportunities for chopping down huge trees and burning up huge logs, they work away with the ardor of passion; but the moment they have made their farms tillable and their houses inhabitable, they take no further interest in them whatever, and are eager to sell out and plunge deeper into the woods to ply again the axe and the brand. Thus the country is cleared rapidly; but the blood of the people is fevered, and the passion for change continues after the good done by it has been accomplished.

The necessity for a rapid clearing of land has ceased. We have cleared faster than we have appropriated. The Eastern and Middle States present an expanse, almost unbroken, of half-cultivated land, dotted with unattractive homes. A large number—probably a majority—of those who occupy those homes are, at least, *willing*, if they are not desirous, to sell their farms and try their fortune in a newer region. They know that the burden of life is heavy to be borne where they are; they hope it will be lighter somewhere else. They forget that the life of *no* honest man is easy. They omit from their calculations all the unseen and spiritual advantages of a permanent residence. They overlook the fact that the real nutriment of a tree or a man flows in from the minute tendrils of the root, scarcely visible to the eye, which a removal rudely tears away. They have neglected to make their homes charming, by planting the ornamental shrub, the shading tree, the beautiful flower. They have not enlisted in their corps of co-operators the next-to-omnipotent aid of Science, nor bound themselves to the fields they till by the interest of varied, intelligent Experiment. They do not know that new lands, though they give a large increase, yet draw large tribute from the men who go to live upon them. The forest and the prairie do not yeld without a struggle, nor without imparting some of their wildness to their conquerors. It is a game of Give and Take between civilized man and wild nature.

To most men, over twenty-five years of age, who have a footing upon their native soil, we believe the advice is good, Stay where you are, and determine to stay as long as life lasts! Persevering toil, guided by a thinking head and ennobled by a worthy purpose, *will* reduce the mortgage by degrees, and beautify the old home, and fertilize the sterile field, and drain the too fertile marsh, and convert stones into stone-fence, and make the farm the pride of the township and the delight of its owner. Stay where you are, and try it! There are those who should remove—the young, the strong, the uncapitaled, the one-too-many in a family. But, if possible, such should remove but

*once*, seeking not a stopping-place, but a permanent home, in which, and around which, all that is best in their natures may gather and centre.

Would that we could whisper it convincingly into the ears of nine-tenths of our restless, roving fellow-citizens, Stay where you are !—*Life Illustrated.*

---

*For the New England Farmer.*

## HINTS FROM THE CLASSICS—No. 1.

BY SAMUEL T. READ.

It is an idea among the agriculturists of the present day, and perhaps an idea which in a measure removes incentives to improvement, that their profession is in a higher state of perfection than ever before. This, however, is a decided mistake. For considering the advantages derived from the other arts, our skill in husbandry is rather upon a retrograde. We have our elaborate treatises upon this subject, (oftentimes too elaborate for practical assistance.) We have implements, the products of years of studious ingenuity; but, still, Agriculture has not kept pace with the other arts, in the rapid strides of energetic progress. If we turn back the pages of history 1900 years, we find in the village of Mantua, a short distance from Rome, a Mantuan shepherd writing the best dissertation on husbandry ever produced—an essay replete with wisdom and apt maxims—a work, which to-day stands forth, defying the world for an equal. There is scarcely a principle which is now applied to Agriculture, to which this does not allude, and on the other hand there are a great many, of paramount value comprised in it, which now, are scarcely known and practiced at all.

Some of its maxims, especially, are so apt, and so worthy of reflection, that I propose spending a few contemplations upon them, as time will permit.

The shepherd was not slow to perceive an error among the Roman husbandmen, which is exerting a very detrimental influence upon our agriculture at the present day. Many of his countrymen possessed fields of so great extent, that they were unable to bestow upon them a thorough culture, and accordingly, like much of our land, they were but partially cultivated, the thistle and the sterile weed growing quite as luxuriantly as the crops of the farmer, with which they were mingled. The writer, perceiving this, cautioned his countrymen in the following comprehensive and laconic language—*Laudato ingentia rura, exiguum colito.* The import of the expression is, that it is better to expend a thorough culture upon a small field than a superficial culture upon a large one. Many of our farmers boast more of *much* land, than of *good* land. They seem to think more of reaping a large field for a small harvest, than of reaping a small field for a large harvest. Sometimes we hear one say, "I've got a good farm; why, there's over one hundred acres of tillage land." And then we hear another say, "I've got a good farm; to be sure I've only twenty-five acres of land under cultivation, but it is *well* cultivated; I spare no pains in supplying it yearly with an abundant coat of fertilizing substances, and it *pays* me for it."

The one-hundred-acre farmer goes out in the spring, and scatters a few tons of manure over his extensive tillage land, so thinly, that those of the poor plants from which he expects a crop, will be quite fortunate who do not have to extend their roots an almost incredible distance, in order to obtain the designed aliment, and then having reached a small clod of the fertilizer, are not compelled to share it with several of their neighbors. The foolish husbandman expends a vast amount of time, labor and money in plowing and planting his unprofitable farm, and is so driven, as to be obliged to hurry in his crops at the very latest moment allowable. Hoeing time (if the crop is corn) comes on apace, and then all is hurry and confusion, early in the morning and late at night. He gets the first hoeing about three-fourths done, and it is time to hoe again, so that one-fourth is left to the domination of the weeds. He hires more men and commences the second hoeing. He hurries his laborers, until they but half do their work, and gets through his field a few days after the proper time. The portion which remained after the first hoeing, is gone over hastily, but the weeds have become so numerous and large, that in their eradication, the danger attendant upon disregard of the caution in the old parable,—"Lest ye root up the wheat also," is greatly incurred. Now, look at his field! Behold the dwindling, spindling, dwarfish, slender mockery of vegetation—a regular crop of Tom Thumb corn. Harvest time is at hand. Hurry! hurry! hurry! again; the poor farmer is a perfect slave. Work! work! work! not so much because there is an immense crop to be garnered, as because he must *go over one hundred acres* ("the good farm,") and he at last gets his grain into shocks, but it is almost a day's travel between them, and a near-sighted person would require a spy-glass to see from one to another. Finally, after protracted and disagreeable labor, the diminutive crop—the result of so much toil and expense, is in the granary—a small one, partly full.

So much for the hundred-acre-farmer. Reverse the picture. The farmer with his twenty-five-acre tillage lot, in the spring, first proceeds to copiously supply his ground with necessary fertilizers. He plows and plants with no distressing "hurries" to distract his mind. He sits pensively reading his paper, or studying his profession, at many a twilight, when his hundred-acre neighbor is hurrying and toiling as if his life were depending upon the exertions of that hour. Hoeing is commenced and ended in its proper time. And the wise and happy farmer has the pleasure of beholding a luxuriant crop, stretching its rank, brawny leaves to sun and shower. At Autumn, his granaries are full. And, in short, order and neatness make his life, what the farmer's life should ever be—a life of quiet contentment and honest pleasure.

Remember it. It is worth as much now as it was 1900 years ago,—*Laudato ingentia rura; exiguum colito.*

---

DURATION OF VEGETABLE LIFE.—Lord Lindsay states, that in the course of his wanderings amid the pyramids of Egypt, he stumbled on a mummy, proved by its hieroglyphics to be at least 2000 years of age. On examining the mummy after it was unwrapped, he found in one of its closed hands a tuberous or bulbous root. He was interested

in the question how long vegetable life could last, and he therefore took that tuberous root from the mummy's hand, planted it in a sunny soil, allowed the rains and dews of heaven to descend upon it, and in the course of a few weeks, to his astonishment and joy, the root burst forth and bloomed into a beauteous dahlia.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS.

LANGSTROTH ON BEES. We recommend to every person who owns bees, or who intends to own them this spring, to read *Langstroth's* book about them. While it abounds with the most valuable facts in nearly every thing concerning them, he has also made it, by his purity of style and elegance of diction, as attractive as many of the best works of the imagination.

RELATIONS OF CHEMISTRY TO AGRICULTURE. By Justus V. Liebig. Translated by Samuel W. Johnson. Pamphlet, 87 pp. Luther Tucker, Albany. Price 25 cents.

EVERY LADY HER OWN FLOWER GARDENER. Pamphlet, 119 pp. Price 25 cents. Saxton & Co., New York. A pleasant and valuable book. If it only teaches to rear a single flower, it will well repay the cost. For sale by Redding & Co., Boston.

THE AMERICAN KITCHEN GARDENER. By the same enterprising Publishers. It will prove a wonderful help to most persons owning a garden. For sale by Redding & Co., Boston. Price only 25 cents.

THE COLD GRAPERY, from direct American Practice: being a concise and detailed treatise on the cultivation of the exotic grape-vine, under glass, without artificial heat. By WILLIAM CHORLTON, Gardener. Saxton & Co., New York. Price 50 cents, neatly bound. This little work tells us how to plant the vine, cultivate, prune, and do all things in relation to it, to secure a crop under glass, but without stoves or fire.

NORTHERN FARMER. Woodstock, Vt. *Brown & Crosby*, Publishers. $1,50 per year in advance. This is a new paper, filled with instructive articles, both original and selected, of a miscellaneous and agricultural character. We hope it will prove eminently useful in the wide field in which it has embarked.

TRAINING A BALKY HORSE.—The *Michigan Farmer* says, a horse became balky in Detroit a short time since, and neither whipping nor coaxing could make him stir. A rope was then fastened round his neck and he was dragged a short distance by another team, but this did not effect a cure. The rope was then taken from his neck, passed between his legs and fastened firmly to his tail. In this manner he was drawn a short distance, and when the rope was taken off, the hitherto unruly animal was perfectly obedient to the will of his master. We have seen this method tried with similar results.

## ASPARAGUS.

A friend tells us that he obtained a plenty of Asparagus in one year, from the setting, by the following modus operandi:

In May, 1853, he bought 100 roots of B. K. Bliss, of Springfield, for one dollar. He dug out a spot in his garden 10 feet by 5, one foot deep, throwing the earth out on the sides. Next he put in 6 or 8 large wheel-barrow loads of well rotted manure, and dug it into the sub-soil nearly another foot in depth. He then filled up the trench a little above the general level of the ground, putting in about equal parts of manure and soil before thrown out. On all he sowed half a bushel of salt; and then set the plants. On the same day of May, 1854, he cut a large quantity of fine asparagus, and continued to do so through that and the following month.

*Suggestions.*—He did well to purchase the roots of a skilful gardener, instead of taking two or three years to grow them from the seed, and then perhaps failing, for the want of that definite practical knowledge on the subject, which Mr. Bliss has acquired in the prosecution of his business.

He did well to dig and throw out the soil one foot; but would have done better, and in the end would be better paid, if he had gone two feet, and had put the second foot into his barnyard or pig-pen. This yellow sub-soil—who would think it?—is excellent for composting. Harvey Dodge of Sutton, who last year obtained the premium for the best managed farm, has used nothing but sub-soil for composting these years, and few if any farmers have raised better crops, or sold them at a higher profit on the expenses of cultivation.

If our friend, instead of putting *well rotted manure* under his bed, had put such as *would be rotting* for the next quarter of a century, he would have done better. Green manure would not have done well. The fermentation would have been too violent for the young plants, and too soon over. Manure is wanted under an asparagus bed that operates twenty-five years. If he had dug two feet or more, and then filled to one foot of the surface with old boots and shoes, the parings off of the shoe-shop, bones, horns, woollen rags, the parings of cloth dressing establishments, tag-locks from the sheep-shearing, &c., &c., all mixed in and laid solid with fermented manure, and then had filled up to four or five inches above the general level with equal parts of top soil and well rotted manure, we think he would have laid the foundation for an asparagus bed, which, by being covered with litter over winter, and dressed each spring with fermented manure and half a bushel of salt, would have yielded more Asparagus than half a dozen families would consume, for at least twenty years. The starting of a good and permanent Asparagus bed, is no cheap affair; but at half the price which the article brings in our markets, it will pay a large per cent. in the outlay. We saw an asparagus bed of 20 acres, near London, which the owner told us, never yields less than £50 to the acre, and often as high as £60.—*The Farmer—by Prof. Nash.*

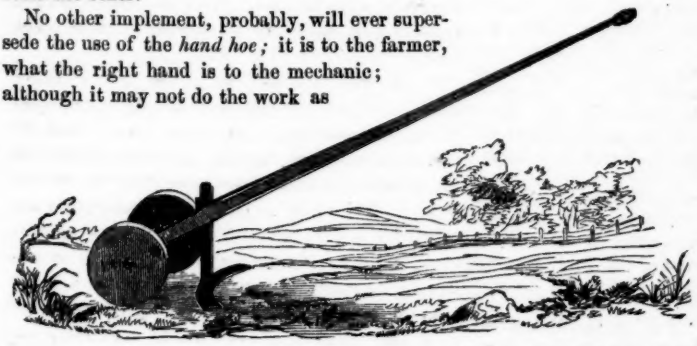
☞ So far, this Spring, the emigration from New England to the West appears to be greater than was ever before known.

## THE WHEEL HOE.

This is an implement of which we can speak from a practical experience, having used it personally for two or three years, with the most satisfactory results. An implement much like this has been in use among the thrifty farmers in Essex county for many years, particularly by the onion raisers there, and by them is called the onion hoe.

The knife in the cut below, varies somewhat from the one given in the September number of the *Farmer*, for 1853; some prefer one form and some the other.

No other implement, probably, will ever supersede the use of the *hand hoe;* it is to the farmer, what the right hand is to the mechanic; although it may not do the work as



fast as some other implement, no other can do it better. It suits all places and conditions of soil, and must always remain an indispensable tool on the farm. But the *wheel hoe* is more than "cousin german" to it, as in good hands it will perform five times as much service in a given period, and where every thing is favorable, do it nearly as well as the hand hoe.

It is an implement which, after long and thorough trial, we unhesitatingly recommend to the farmer and gardener, as one which will save a great deal of unpleasant labor in weeding, and enable him to raise *ten* bushels of carrots as easily with it, as he could *five* without it. In order to give the operator perfect control of it, there should be a cross piece on the end of the handle about 18 inches long; this does not seem to be very well represented in the engraving.

They are manufactured and sold by *Nourse & Co.*, 9 and 13 Commercial Street, at $1,25 cents each.

---

Spring Purchases.—Those persons about purchasing trees, shrubbery, grape or other vines and bushes which grow small fruits, if they study their own interest, will look at our advertising columns. Asa Clement, whose post-office address is Lowell, James Hyde & Son, Newton Centre, Anthony & McAfee, New Bedford, Mrs. S. W. Cole, Chelsea, Ephraim Wood, Salem, W. Hall, Bradford, and others. They are persons to be relied upon.

*For the New England Farmer.*

## MATURING PLANTS.

(REVIEW OF R. M. I.)

Mr. McIntire objects to the idea that plants before coming to maturity feed more from the atmosphere, and that potatoes produced from seed do not come to maturity for some years, &c.

After what I have heretofore said upon the first of the above ideas, it does not appear to me that anything more is required upon that head. As to potatoes producing large tubers at once, from potato-seed, I am not aware of having advanced any such idea. The potato first produces little fibrous roots. It then supplies the tops with certain mineral substances, as has been ascertained by chemical analysis. When the tops have come to a good degree of maturity, then tubers may begin to form. But at this point let the tops be cut down, and the formation of tubers is at once arrested. Many experiments and facts lead me to this conclusion.

The first growth of tops from the potato-seed, is very small. The tubers produced will be correspondingly small. These tubers are planted, and produce larger tops. Then are produced larger tubers. Then again those tubers are planted, and produce still larger tubers. Usually, in three or four years, under proper circumstances, the seedling potato reaches its maturity, when the tubers are as large as they will ever grow, under the same circumstances of culture. Does the young seedling potato produce seed from seed? If that is the ordinary way the potato does business, "we'll give it up."

It is a fact that potatoes will sometimes produce an abundance of seed, and but a very small yield of tubers, where large tubers were planted, and the soil and the culture were indifferent. That the carbon of the old potato went directly into the growth of the seed is very evident, I think.

I have been well assured of the fact that enormous crops of potatoes have been produced from the deep soils composed of old vegetable matter, in the West, where nothing but the mere eyes of potatoes were planted. Experiments have abundantly demonstrated that such things cannot be done upon a soil but scantily supplied with old vegetable matter. This is a fact which is full of instruction. The experiment has been tried, of planting the eyes of potatoes, on land less abundantly supplied with old vegetable matter in a state of decomposition. It has proved an entire failure. Among the farmers of New England it has been found that an excessively rich soil, or one full of carbon with such a degree of moisture as to produce rapid decomposition of vegetable matter, is almost certain to produce disease in potatoes.

It has also been observed that seedling potatoes,

generally, for some years after being produced from seed, do not ripen fully. During this period, they are less desirable for cooking. This was the case with the long reds, the blacks and the Danvers reds. As they grow older, they become better for table use, ripen earlier, and as far as I have been able to ascertain, are more liable to rot.

The idea that a plant feeds more from the air before maturity, and more from the soil while producing seed, seems to be disputed. How can we know? Take an English turnip and set it in moist sand, with no carbonaceous food, and it will grow and blossom with nearly as much promise as though set in a good soil. When fully in bloom, an examination will show that the root is but slightly changed in its condition. After the blossoms are closed, the root will change very rapidly, and become used up, before seed is matured. Let the turnip be set in a soil where it can procure a supply of carbonaceous food, and it will mature seed. As the blossoms fall from short-lived plants, a new process in Nature's economy begins.

Every man who knows the chemical composition of a tree, knows that it must take the principal part of its substance from the air. After trees blossom, the fruit makes but little progress in growth until the woody formation for the year is at an end.

If, in the latter part of July or the first of August, the supply from the roots is cut short, either by the work of borers, or by shortening the roots, the supply of mineral elements will be less than the supply of carbon which had been taken in through the leaves. The natural effect will be that the tree will form fruit-buds instead of continuing the growth of wood. This is a well-known fact.

*Note explanatory.*—The above was mostly written about the first of January last, and it was my intention to add several items to it; but ill health has prevented. I have waited a good while with the hope of being better able to think and write, but I cannot now write much.

A. G. COMINGS.

---

PEA WEEVILS.—Few persons, (says Dr. Harris,) while indulging in early green peas, are aware how many of these insects they swallow. When the pods are examined, small discolored spots may be seen within them, each corresponding with a similar spot on the opposite pea. If this spot on the pea be opened, a minute whitish grub, without feet, will be found therein. It is the weevil in its *larva* form, lives upon the marrow of the pea, and arrives at its full size by the time the pea is dry. This *larva* then bores a round hole, from the hollow in the centre of the pea, quite to the hull, but leaves the germ of the future sprout untouched. This insect is limited to a certain period for depositing its eggs. Late sown peas escape its attacks. Those sown after the 10th of June are generally safe.

When the peas are green, the Baltimore Oriole splits open the green pods, for the sake of the grubs contained in the peas, thereby greatly contributing to prevent the increase of these noxious insects. The instinct that enables this beautiful bird to detect the lurking grub, concealed as it is within the pod and hull of the pea, is worthy of admiration.—*Harris's Insects, &c.*

## HOW TO USE FERTILIZERS.

We advise farmers to make all the manure they can, on their farms, by every fair and possible contrivance; and when made it will require as much skill to *expend* it judiciously, as it did to collect it. Save everything—lose nothing. Let every leaf, straw, chip, every sort of droppings from the animals, from the sink-spout, from the clouds, every bone, old boots and shoes, rags, all manner of offal, and every ditch that leads and stream that flows, either across or around the farm, be directed to some appropriate place or reservoir, where it shall be collected and preserved from loss as carefully as though it were gold dust.

When this is done, we advise to one thing more, and that is to purchase all the wood ashes he can find that shall cost him not more than fifteen cents a bushel, and all the charcoal dust he can obtain at a cost of not more than ten cents a bushel. We advise no man to purchase what are called the *specific* manures for the *general purposes of farming*. That they can be used with advantage in many instances, by those who know how, and are willing to take the pains, we have no doubt. But the losses arising from their use last year, in this State, were of no mean magnitude, and we fear they will not be the present year.

The only way in which we can learn the value of fertilizing substances at our command, is by experiment, and not by analysis, and with this idea we shall continue to use guano, bone-dust, poudrette, superphosphate of lime, gypsum, salt, saltpetre, and such other articles called fertilizers as we can readily procure.

There are thousands, however, who have not yet used any of these, who are desirous to do so, and are constantly inquiring how, and in what quantities, they shall be applied. In order to aid such inquiries we have prepared, with a good deal of care, the following remarks upon several of the articles commonly used.

PERUVIAN GUANO.—There are several kinds of guano, and the value of each is fixed by the price asked. 300 pounds is not too much on soils moderately fertile—more on poor lands, and less on those naturally rich and recently well manured.

APPLICATION.—Pulverize it finely and spread broadcast upon the surface, if the land has been well plowed; if not well plowed, harrow once before spreading, then cultivate the guano under from *one* to *three* inches, according to the nature of the soil; shallow in wet, and deeper in dry soils.

If Peruvian guano is to be used in the hill, it should receive six to ten times its own bulk of muck or loam, be thoroughly mingled, and when

applied to the hill mixed with the soil with the *hoe*, not the *foot*.

Mexican guano and superphosphate of lime may be spread broadcast, or placed in the hill, and the quantity used may be from *two to four hundred pounds per acre*, according to the condition of the land and the objects desired to be gained.

On all crops of the turnip or cabbage kind, the superphosphate is particularly useful.

It is an excellent plan to add a table-spoonful of guano, or super-phosphate, to the hill, for corn, as it gives it a vigorous start, bringing out the broad leaves early to supply food from the atmosphere. At 3 feet 6 inches one way and 3 feet the other, there would be 4148 hills per acre; allowing 4 spoonsful to the gill, *four bushels* would give 4096 spoonsful, which, at 60 pounds to the bushel, would be 240 pounds per acre; and this is good a way of helping out where the manure heap is limited.

Bone dust may be used in the same manner and in about the same quantities.

Perhaps as good a return might be realized from any of these fertilizers by scattering them in very small quantities upon the suaface immediately after hoeing, and covering them carefully, at each hoeing. But the process would be a tedious one.

Lime and ashes should not be mixed with guano. Use them separately.

Guano spread upon grass ground should be applied while rain is falling; for uplands, it would pay well to mix it thoroughly with muck.

A solution of two or three pounds of guano to a barrel of water is an excellent fertilizer for valuable plants, and garden vegetables, applied about sunset, once or twice a week.

---

Corn Fodder.—A piece of sward land was broken up in the month of June, (10th day) planted with corn, in drills, four feet apart, hoed twice, and the produce cut and tied in bundles on the third day of September. The yield was found, by weighing, to be equal to thirteen thousand, seven hundred and sixty-nine pounds to the acre!

COST OF CROP.

| | |
|---|---|
| Plowing | $3,75 |
| Harrowing | ,75 |
| Seed | ,30 |
| Planting | 1,75 |
| Hoeing | 4,00 |
| Harvesting | 2,00 |
| Total | $12,55 |

This fodder was fed as dry food to cattle during the winter, and was highly relished. By chaffing, corn fodder produced in this way will, we think, be found very economical, especially in seasons when hay is cut short.

*For the New England Farmer.*

## PROFITS OF FARMING.

Mr. Editor:—While on a visit to a friend, I chanced to come across your valuable agricultural paper. I saw some of your correspondents gave their experience in managing their farms, and, thinking it might be acceptable to some of your readers to know how we of the Empire State get along in farming, I give you a short sketch, as follows.

I purchased a farm of forty acres in the spring of 1852, not forty miles north of Troy, and paid $20 per acre, or $800; $500 was paid down, and the remainder left on mortgage. One-third of the soil is alluvial, one-third gravelly, and the remainder decomposed slate, mixed with reddish loam; thirty acres of improved land, and the remainder timber. The farm had been rented for the past ten years, consequently it was very unpromising. House old, boards loose and swinging in the wind, the windows almost without glass, &c.; the out-houses were miserable, and worse still were the fences; rails were scattered hither and thither, and hedges, stone heaps, and old logs were thrown promiscuously over the premises. Being determined to go ahead in the world, I commenced fencing and repairing, and have, in the course of three years, built a new dwelling house, and repaired the out-buildings and fences. My little place has now the appearance, and is a neat and comfortable farm. Beside paying the mortgage, I am now out of debt, with one span of horses and fixtures, five calves, twenty sheep, four hogs, poultry, &c. I give below the amount of farm produce which I raised the past year, though it was one of drought, and generally short crops in this section of Washington county.

| | |
|---|---|
| 20 tons of hay, worth $10 per ton | $200,00 |
| 200 bushels corn, 80 cents per bushel | 160,00 |
| 300 " potatoes, 50 cents " | 150,00 |
| 150 " oats, 50 cents " | 75,00 |
| 20 " wheat, worth $2 " | 40,00 |
| 100 " apples, 20 cents " (common) | 20,00 |
| Seeds, clover and herds grass | 10,00 |
| 500 lbs. butter, worth 20 cents per lb | 100,00 |
| Corn-stalks, straw, &c | 50,00 |
| | $805,00 |

EXPENSES.

| | |
|---|---|
| One hand 5 months, $12 per month | $60,00 |
| 5 tons manure and plaster, $8 per ton | 40,00 |
| Repairs, &c., for farming tools | 10,00 |
| Farming tools purchased | 30,00 |
| Groceries, &c., wearing apparel | 50,00 |
| Interest, &c., on $800, value of repairs, stock, &c. | 150,00 |
| Produce consumed, deducting the growth of stock | 100,00 |
| | $440,00 |
| Which leaves a nett profit of | 365,00 |

My own labor has been amply paid by the increased value of the farm. I have been offered $3,000 for the farm and stock. Do our merchants or mechanics often do as well on the same amount of capital employed? J. Hades.

*Washington County, N. Y.*, 1855.

---

Connecticut State Agricultural Society.—At a late meeting of this Society, at Hartford, that city was was fixed on for holding the next exhibition, and the following officers were elected: *President*—Samuel H. Huntington, of Hartford. *Vice Presidents*—Charles H. Pond, N. B. Smith. *Corresponding Secretary*—Henry A. Dyer, of Brooklyn. *Recording Secretary and Treasurer*—John A. Porter, of New Haven.

## POTATOES.

Much has been said and written on raising potatoes; and although I am not much of a farmer, yet I have taken some little pains to inform myself of the best way.

1st. I think the best land for potatoes is on our side hills, which is generally a deep loam and rather moist. The potatoes are not so likely to be injured by frost as in lower land, nor so subject to blast or rust: moreover this is the natural soil for a great crop.

2d. As to manure, forty common loads is none too much for an acre. If I had a thousand acres of land, and but forty loads of manure for my potato ground, I would plant but one acre if the land was not rich.

I am acquainted with two farmers who live near each other. The soil of their farms is very much alike; one uses forty loads, while the other uses eighteen to twenty loads of manure per acre. The first has generally 400 bushels of potatoes to the acre, and the last 200 to 250. This is not all the former gains. His land holds out several years for other crops; while the latter has but a small crop even the second year.

3d. The seed of potatoes ought to be changed every five or six years. Even if the seed is brought but two or three miles, the crop will be much better.

4th. As to planting, I think the rows ought to be about three and three and a half feet apart, and the hills eighteen inches or two feet apart, and the potatoes cut for planting a large one in three pieces, and those smaller in two pieces (no small ones should be planted) and three pieces put in each hill. I have tried whole ones; they do not spread so well, and therefore do not produce so much as cut ones. I planted three years since

2 rows with 4 pieces in a hill,
2 do. 3 do. in a hill,
2 do. 2 do. in a hill,
2 do. 3 eye end pieces in a hill,
2 do. 3 butt end pieces in each hill.

The butt ends weighed one-sixteenth more than the eye ends.

The product was as follows, viz:—The rows with 4 pieces yielded 10 bushels—many small ones.

Rows of 3 pieces, 10 bushels—not many small ones.

Of 2 pieces, 9 bushels there were very few small ones.

The rows of eye ends, 9½ bushels—many small ones.

And the two rows of butt ends, 10½ bushels—and the best in the whole lot.

I have tried it since with the same or nearly the same success.

I should not have believed the butt ends would have produced the best crop if I had not tried it; for some, even many of the pieces did not appear to have any germ; and the reader has the same liberty not to believe it until he tries it.

I saw in your last *Visitor* some experiments of Elias Frost on raising potatoes. He says he planted 5 lbs. 9 oz. of eye ends, and on the same quantity of ground planted 3 lbs. 10 oz. of the butt ends, and had the best crop and largest potatoes from the eye ends. Now he ought to have cut the potatoes so that the butt ends would have been as large, and even larger than the eye ends, as the butt end has fewer germs. If he will try again, and give the butt end a fair chance, he will probably come to a different conclusion.

---

*For the New England Farmer.*

## PRUNING TREES AND SUN-SCALD.

MR. BROWN:—I am glad to see Mr. Little's remarks on pruning, &c. Now Mr. Little, I think, cannot intend to go into raising apples on a large scale, or if he does, it must be where land is not so valuable as it is in Brookline. Here we are under the necessity of making the most of our land. My neighbor, Farmer Jones, has forty acres of land; most of it is planted with apple, pear, plum and cherry trees, the apple trees from 35 to 40 feet apart; he raises all kinds of green sauce for the market, as well as hay and grain. Mr. Jones cultivates every foot of his land, orchard, and all; he breaks it up every third year, after laying it down, and cultivates at first for potatoes, squashes, melons, corn, and then the next year for peas, beans, or other crops. He generally gets two crops a year; a crop of peas, and then sweet corn, beets or potatoes, and then turnips; sometimes three crops, first spinach, then lettuce, and after that beets. So you see that we are under the necessity of pruning our trees in the old way (but not as broom-sticks, but more like a large umbrella,) and by doing this we cut off the branches when young and trim our trees about six feet high, and then let them branch out, not leaving too many branches; three or four is enough. This enables us to plow, harrow, or do anything else we choose in our orchards, and by plowing every third year and then cultivating two years, our trees are always free of roots on the surface. They get well manured, trimmed of all suckers or superabundance of limbs, and all interfering branches, while they are small, by which means we give them a most beautiful top, and they in return give us a most plentiful crop of large, fair fruit, without any fear of sun-scald. Out of four hundred trees, I do not think a single tree can be found with sun-scald; we wash them every spring with potash, a pound to eight gallons of water, which kills the scales and lice, and then we scrape off the loose bark, taking care not to scrape too deep, so as to expose the inner bark; this will remove all the vermin and insects that have secreted themselves under the bark, or in any crevice in or on the tree. The fall is the best time to trim or prune trees; February and March to wash and scrape them. February and March is the best time to salt plum trees, and cut away any fungus or black warts. If Mr. Little will, when in Boston, get into the Brookline cars, they will bring him to my house in ten minutes, and I shall be happy to show him the broomsticks that he speaks of, and also the manner in which Farmer Jones does things on his farm—also mine on a small scale. S. A. SHURTLEFF.

---

GONE TO FARMING.—We have great hope of the world yet—it grows more and more sensible every day.

"Hope springs perennial in the human breast,"

certainly it does—and that hope with nearly all men is, that at some time, not far distant, they

shall *go to farming*. So our old friend DANIEL NEEDHAM, Esq., of Groton, has tipt up his ponderous law tomes, gone to Quechee, Vt., and planted himself on a three-hundred-acre-farm on the banks of the "Silver Quechee," where we trust he may vegetate and thrive exceedingly.

## A SKETCH OF FARM LIFE.

"There is poetry in farming." True,
But I have read and so have you,
That "*distance* lends unto the view
Enchantment fair."
For instance: digging gold will *do*
Till one gets there.

In summer planting, weeding, hoeing,
And practising "*Knick-knack's*" at mowing,
(That science which you boast of knowing
So very well,)
The scorching sun no mean type showing
Of what's called h—l.

In winter tugging with the flail,
Or sledding to the cutting gale,
Such as would send a gallant sail
In bare poles seaward,
And blows your fore-nag's lusty tail
Straight out to leeward.

In place of literary talk
With compeers in your daily walk,
It's "Shall you top, or cut the stalk
Of that ere crop!"
Or, "Sold yer cattle?—how'll ye chalk
To swell or swop?"

Not half the *prose* may well be told
Which farmers every day behold
In summer hot and winter cold,
Dull as 'tis real;
Yet we've incentives manyfold
To the ideal.

The pictures in the book of June;
The glorious dawn, the balmy noon;
The dewy eve, the rising moon;
All these are ours,
And all the recompensing boon
Of birds and flowers.

When Winter hurls his storms apace,
Oft piteous is the farmer's case:
Night comes—the blazing chimney-place
Stills all complaints;
Thaws out his features, till his face
Shines like a saint's.

There while the cheer reeks to the ceiling,
He gets most comfortably feeling,
Thinking how barn and battened shielling,
Secure and warm,
His poor dependants safe are shielding
From the storm.

There he may read, muse and ponder
Upon this life, this world of wonder;
There, judge-like, he may set asunder
The truth from error,
And see in men of "blood and thunder"
No cause for terror.

There he may form just estimate
Of those the world calls good and great;
See *fortune*, *circumstance*, and *fate*
Create renown,
And give a knave a chair of state,
An ass a crown.

*Knickerbocker.*

*For the New England Farmer.*

## MURIATE OF LIME.

MR. EDITOR:—Early in June last, I procured a barrel of Mr. James Gould's muriate of lime, who requested me to make trial of it upon my crops. I tried it upon six rows of corn, in the middle of a field, at the first hoeing, putting a small handful to each hill. On one side I had planted six rows of corn, manured in the hill with compost; on the other side an equal number of rows, manured in the hill with guano. No manure had been used in the hill, in the six rows to which I applied the muriate of lime; but the whole field, previous to planting, had been dressed with a thin coat of compost. As the field was surrounded by two or three rows of potatoes, of course there were two or three hills of potatoes at each end of the rows of corn. These were treated with the same kind of manure as the corn in the rows, of which they were a continuation.

On harvesting the crop, I found that the corn to which the muriate of lime had been applied, was stout and the crop good, considering the season; in short, about one-third heavier than that on which the compost or guano was used. The potatoes which had been treated with muriate of lime, were nearly twice as large as those which were manured with the compost or the guano, and there was about the same number to the hill.

LARKIN P. PAGE.

*Bedford, Mass.*, 1855.

## WHAT IS RESPECTABLE SOCIETY?

We heard a man, otherwise intelligent enough, lately sneer at another, "because," said he, "one never meets him in respectable society." The speaker did not mean, however, that the person he affected to look down upon was immoral, but merely that his circle of intimates was not composed of the fashionable or the rich.

This notion of what constitutes respectable society, is quite a favorite one with that class of individuals, whom Thackeray has so significantly called "snobs." Empty pretence is always making its own characteristics a standard, by which it strives to measure the respectability of persons at large. In a community of mere money-getters, wealth is the test of respectability. Among the proud, narrow-minded, effete nobility of the Faubourg St. Germain, respectability depends on being descended from ancestors, who have married their cousins for so many centuries, that neither muscle nor brains are left any longer to the degenerate descendants. With the dandy officers, who constitute a considerable portion of the American Navy, respectability consists in having sponged on "Uncle Sam," in wearing gilt buttons, and in bilking tailors. Every conceited fool thinks himself, in like way, the only man really weighty, the only person who is respectable.

But true respectability depends on no such adventitous circumstances. To be respectable is to be worthy of respect; and he most deserves respect who has most virtue. The humblest man, who bravely does his duty, is more worthy of respect, is more truly respectable, than the covetous millionaire among his money-bags, or the arrogant monarch on his throne. The fine lady, who back-

bites her neighbor, is less worthy of respect than an honest washerwoman. The profligate noble, though he may wear a dozen orders in his buttonhole, is often not really as respectable as the shoeblack that cleans his boots. That which is called "the world" exalts the one and despises the other, but it does not make them respectable, according to the real meaning of the word. Their respectability is all a hollow sham, as they themselves frequently feel: and those who worship them bow down to a Fetish, a thing of feathers and tinsel. The selfish, idle drone, who wastes life in his own gratification, and dissipates the fortune of his progeny, is not, and cannot be, respectable; but the hard-working, self-denying father, who wears out his life to bring up his children, is, even though he be but a day-laorer. Nothing can make Dives fit to lie on Abraham's bosom, while Lazarus is welcomed there, even with the sores the dogs have licked.

This false view of life, which would measure respectability by a conventional standard, is totally at variance with our republican institutions. It creates an "*imperium in imperio*;" for while the law declares all citizens equal, it erects a social standard which endeavors to ignore that great truth. The coarse, brutal, knavish, profligate, criminal—in short all who fall short of their duty to themselves and their fellow-men—are those who are "not respectable;" and this, whether they are rich or poor. While those who live honestly, and strive to do what good they can, constitute what is really the respectable class, irrespective of the fact whether they eat with silver forks or steel ones.—*Dollar Newspaper.*

*For the New England Farmer.*

## CATERPILLARS.

This pest of the fruit-grower may now be very easily destroyed, by simply picking off the eggs deposited on the tips of the branches last summer by the butterfly. They are wax-like in appearance, and form a small ring around the limb, from one-fourth to nearly an inch in length, and about an eighth of an inch in thickness. It is not one-tenth so much work to remove the eggs as it will be the nests by and by.

Not recollecting to have ever seen any thing of this mode of destroying this pest of the orchard in your valuable paper, I send you the above, which is at your service. Enclosed is a specimen of the eggs attached to the limb. S. Tenney.

*West Poland, Me., March*, 1855.

The Weather in Maine.—The weather here is very cold for the season. The snow is full three feet deep in the woods, and has not began to go off yet. The sugar maple refuses to yield its annual harvest, but we hope warmer days are coming soon. S. Tenney.

*West Poland, Me., March* 26.

Correspondents will confer a favor by writing on one side of the paper only. We have many valuable communications on hand which will bear keeping, and shall have proper attention by-and-by. As far as possible, we endeavor to introduce those first which may be acted upon practically at once, at the same time desiring to present a variety of topics.

## MUCK AND GUANO.

A QUESTION FOR PROFESSOR NASH.

There are few men in whose sound and practical knowledge of the value and effect of manures we have so much confidence, as in that of Professor Nash, Editor of the *Farmer*, published at Amherst. We desire, therefore, to ask him a single question, with a view to making his reply as public as the interrogatory itself. It is this:—What, in your opinion, would be the effect of three hundred pounds of guano upon an acre of good land for the space of five years? And what the effect of the same money cost, say $9.00, of good meadow muck, spread upon another acre of the same kind of land for the same length of time,—both fields to be planted with precisely the same crops, and cultivated and treated every way alike?

*For the New England Farmer.*

## POTATOES—GRASS SEED.

Mr. Editor:—Having noticed in the *Farmer* a very interesting article from an old friend, Amasa Walker, Esq., upon his great success in potato growing, I am induced to state the practice of our Long Island farmers in this branch of farming. In the towns of Flushing, Flatland, Flatbush, &c., raising potatoes is the main business of many farmers. They market early, obtain great prices, deal in *peach basket bushels*, and many of them range from two to seven thousand dollars for this crop alone annually. Their principal variety is Mercer, not unlike your Chenango in appearance. They use horse manure, plow deep, and, as one farmer said to me, he had raised potatoes fifteen consecutive years on the same piece of land.

Their practice is to select the *largest* for seed. They cut off and give to the pigs the "seed end," as it is often called; cut the potatoes lengthwise into quarters, plant two and a half feet apart by three feet, and hill very little. They say by cutting off the small eyes, they get more pounds of potatoes, and avoid small ones; four to five large stocks to the hill is all they want. Judging from the large size they were digging, I put them down as the L. L. D.'s of the profession.

Is this not sound doctrine, and would it not apply to Chenangos, Long Reds, and all those long varieties which show a "seed end?" And does it prove any thing in its application to small potatoes? Small potatoes, planted year after year, prove to my mind the *principle of dwarfing*.

I hope Mr. Walker and others will try the Long Island experiment, and publish the result. I would suggest the following plan: 1. Plant the large quarters in rows separately; 2. Plant the "seed end" separately, then there will be no loss of seed, and the difference will be seen; 3. Plant separately the hen's egg size; 4. Plant separately the next size smaller; 4. Plant separately the size of a robin's egg. Test the whole experiment fairly. No time is lost beyond sorting sizes. Results may come that will gratify the ambition to raise *large potatoes*, which is the only aim of the farmer. "Small potatoes and few in the hill" is his abomination.

Sowing grass seed with the oat and barley crops is dangerous, particularly with oats. The rapidly growing grain suppresses the young grass, and in a dry time it is deeply shaded, overpowered and destroyed. Is this not the experience of many farmers? For these crops, and to lay down to grass, manuring and *deep plowing* is the only safe practice. Now we will suppose the grain to be harvested—the land in good tilth—stubble and weeds have afforded additional manure; turn them in by shallow plowing, taking care not to disturb the manure first plowed in for the grain; sow grass seed, brush in and roll, and before winter you will have a better show of grass, a better catch, and full remuneration for patient waiting and extra plowing. The mowing field is the *watch work* of farming. If worth doing, *see that it is well done.* H. Poor.

*Brooklyn, April*, 1855.

*For the New England Farmer.*

## SUCKER PLUM TREES.

Mr. Brown:—Sir,—In looking over the weekly issue of the *New England Farmer*, of March 3, I observed the inquiry of "J. F. W." what he must do for his plum tree, which fails to bear fruit, although "blossoming full" every year, with your recommendation as a remedy.

Now, Mr. Editor, for the benefit of "J. F. W." and others, I would say that, from twenty to thirty years' experience in cultivating fruit trees, I find that suckers of the plum, transplanted as standards, almost universally fail to produce fruit; though growing thriftily and blossoming freely, they have invariably failed with me. "J. F. W.'s" tree is probably a sucker. But they may be used with good advantage for stocks for improved varieties. I have grafted hundreds of them with good success; they grow finely and bear profusely. I have trees grafted on suckers, from four to six years from grafting, which bore last season from one to two bushels per tree. After grafting, your recommendations coincide with my experience exactly. C. Smith.

*Shelburne, Franklin Co., Ms., March* 26, 1855.

*For the New England Farmer.*

## FERTILIZERS—GARGET.

Mr. Editor:—Will you give me some information through your excellent paper, in regard to using phosphate of lime or some like fertilizer, on such vegetables as beans, peas, &c.

Also where I can get garget-root for cows, and if there is any other remedy as good. A. J. P

*Boston, April* 10, 1855.

Remarks.—Superphosphate of lime, guano, bone-dust and ashes, are excellent for all garden crops when properly used. Apply in small quantities, mix well with the soil, hoe well, and you will rarely fail of a crop.

We can supply you with a little of the "garget-root." Whether it is the best remedy for the disease called garget in cows we do not know.

Black Knots on Plum Trees.—We see a variety of cures recommended in the papers for the Black Knot on the plum tree, but thus far, after having tried each of the remedies recommended at the different dates of their publications, and which includes all that has lately been repeated, we assert, without the fear of contradiction, that the Black Knot cannot be cured after it has fairly made its appearance, by any process yet made public.—*Working Farmer.*

## EXTRACTS AND REPLIES.

### THE BOYS AND THE HENS.

Mr. Brown:—Father has permitted us to obtain half a dozen hens, and we want to know how to manage and feed them in the best way. We find a good many things in the vols. of the *N. E. Farmer* about them, but they don't exactly suit our case. What sort of a coop shall we make? what shall we feed them on? Shall they be constantly confined? We like the instructions we find in your paper, better than those we find in books, because they seem so *natural;* we think the writers have seen what they tell—it is like talking with one who knows. We were so well pleased with the letter you wrote us last fall about the horse-chestnut seeds we gathered for you, that we feel encouraged to write you now.

*April* 19. Henry and Eddy.

Remarks.—One of the most encouraging facts in the progress of this paper, is, that women and young persons frequently write us and either ask or impart information on the important topics of the farm. It is a great point gained. Our young friends will find no difficulty in obtaining an abundance of eggs and chickens, if they furnish their hens with a dry, warm and convenient roosting place, and plenty of wholesome food. An attic room in an outbuilding, where the sun comes, is a favorable position. They must be warmly sheltered in cold weather or they will not lay. They should have food regularly, and in variety; corn, occasionally boiled potatoes and meal mixed with scraps, the crumbs and bits of meat from the table, oats, barley or wheat, together with gravel and pounded oyster or clam shells. They love to run at large and eat the tender grass, insects, young cabbage plants, and other good things which they find in the garden. But they do well confined a part of the time, being allowed to range for an hour or two before going to roost.

—

### QUANTITY OF SEED.

Mr. Mechi, the distinguished English agriculturist at Tiptree Hall, says—"Our farmers have, many of them, yet to learn the advantages of a moderate quantity of seed." The true rule we believe to be to make the land rich and use the less seed; then you get a vigorous growth and fully matured seed.

—

Mr. L. P. Page, of Bedford, states that corn planted with muriate of lime, last season, pro-

duced one-third more crop than that manured with compost or guano. His communication will be given next week.

—

Why does Vermont wheat make bread that is moist, while that made from Western wheat is dry? Is it owing to the presence of gluten?

J. E. K.

"Newport, N. H., April 11, 1855. The stage from this place still goes upon runners. Snow in abundance."

## BOYS' DEPARTMENT.

### PROFANITY.

This is one of the marked vices of the boys of the present day. What multitudes of them are addicted to it. Are parents fully aware of this? Do you know that your sons, when away from home by day as well as by night, are mingling with profane associates? Or rather, do you know that they have not such companions? Are there not parents in nearly every town in our favored Commonwealth, who are famous at home, and it may be abroad, as moral reformers, whose sons are suffered to grow up at home habituated to the use of profane language and all its kindred vices whose number is legion? Said a boy not long since in our hearing, "The boy or the man that will swear will drink and smoke and be guilty of other kindred vices." Said another in reply, "Now we do not think so much of persons who indulges in profane language as of those who do not," a remark fully concurred in by all who were engaged in the conversation.

Boys—our advice to you all is to avoid the wicked practice of using profane language—and all idle words approaching it. There are persons who would not swear, but continually interlard their conversation with such expressions, as, "I vow"—"I swan," and others of similar kind, that will suggest themselves to the reader; also persons that would think it awfully wicked to take the name of God in vain, yet are very familiar with such oaths as, "by Jesus,"—"by hoke" and by every thing else, almost. There are persons, however, who see little difference between "I swan" and "I swear," and, therefore, as a matter of taste, if they use either, choose the latter. Now is it any more wicked to say "I swear," than "I vow," or "I swan?" If so, we confess our inability to discriminate. Let these things be carefully considered in the light of divine truth, and all these idle words will be abandoned.

Let all the boys who read these remarks, who have, already, become addicted to the vice of profanity, resolve to break themselves of it by immediate, total abstinence from every variety of profaneness. Let such also as have not yet become habituated to it, resolve to be free from it—to avoid associating with such as indulge in its use. Swear not at all, for it is not noble, nor brave, nor wise, nor the sign of good culture, nor anything else that is pure, lovely and of good report. Would every girl and woman frown upon this vice and those allied to it, all but the abandoned and hopeless would soon forsake it. Will parents and teachers strive to check the growth of this vice? Will those philanthropists whose benevolent aspirations encircle the globe, see to it, that their sons do not continually annoy their neighbors by profanity?

The Revised Statutes of Massachusetts contain the following declarations concerning profanity:

"If any person, who has arrived at the age of discretion, shall profanely curse or swear, he shall on conviction thereof, before any justice of the peace, be punished by fine, not exceeding five dollars, nor less than one dollar."

We read of one of olden times that neither feared God nor regarded man. If there be any such "as have arrived at the age of discretion," and are habitually indulging in profanity, they should not be unmindful that they are liable to fine and cost, for every violation of the aforesaid statute. When every other means fail, the law should have its course.—*Amherst Express.*

## LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

### DOMESTIC RECIPES.

EGGS AND SAUSAGES.—Boil four sausages for five minutes, when half cold cut them in half lengthways, put a little butter or fat in frying-pan and put the sausages in and fry gently, break four eggs into the pan, cook gently, and serve. Raw sausages will do as well, only keep them whole, and cook slowly.

A VERY NICE RICE PUDDING.—Take half a teacupful of the best rice, put it in a small pie-dish with three tablespoonfuls of moist sugar. Fill up the dish with milk and water in equal proportions, and bake very slowly. It is eaten cold.

OMELETTES.—Break four eggs into a basin, add half a teaspoonful of salt and a quarter ditto of pepper, beat them up well with a fork, put into the frying-pan one ounce and a half of butter, lard, or oil, which put on the fire until hot; then pour in the eggs, which keep on mixing quick with a spoon until all is delicately set; then let them slip to the edge of the pan, laying hold by the handle, and raising it slantways, which will give an elongated form to the omelette; turn in the edges, let it set a moment and turn it over on to a dish, and serve.

It ought to be a nice yellow color, done to a nicety, and as light and delicate as possible. It may be served in many ways, but the following is most common: two tablespoonsfuls of milk, and an ounce of the crumb of bread cut in thin slices may be added.

TO MAKE FINE PAN-CAKES, FRIED WITHOUT BUTTER OR LARD.—Take a pint of cream and six new-laid eggs; beat them well together; put in a quarter of a pound of sugar and one nutmeg or a little beaten mace—which you please, and so much as will thicken—almost as much as ordinary pan-cake flour batter; your pan must be heated reasonably hot, and wiped with a clean cloth; this done, spread your batter thin over it, and fry.

TO CLEAN WINDOW GLASS.—Take finely pulverised indigo, dip it into a linen rag moistened with vinegar, wine, or water, and apply it briskly to the glass. Wipe off and polish with a dry cloth. This method of cleansing window glass imparts a brilliant polish, and is far more expeditiously accomplished than cleaning with soap-suds or whiting.